

The Middlebury Campus

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Bill Strickland to give commencement speech



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT, COURTESY: MANCHESTER BIDWELL CORPORATION; MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE; MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE; ADEEVA FRITZ; ADEEVA FRITZ

Clockwise from left: Bill Strickland, CEO of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation, will give this year's commencement address; honorary degree recipients include David Wolk '75, Christopher Wolff, Martha Siegfried Fritz and Frederick M. Fritz '68. Not pictured: degree recipient Sarah Bright Alturki.

By Kara Shurmantine

President and CEO of the non-profit Manchester Bidwell Corporation and 1996 MacArthur "Genius" award recipient Bill Strickland will deliver the 2012 commencement address on Sunday, May 27.

Strickland will also receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Other honorary degree recipients include educator and philanthropist Sarah Bright Alturki, Harvard musicologist Christoph Wolff, Castleton State College president David Wolk '75, chair of the Board of Trustees Frederick Fritz '68 and his wife Martha Fritz.

Strickland grew up in the Manchester neighborhood of Pittsburgh and attended the University of Pittsburgh, where as an undergraduate he founded the Manchester Craftmen's guild, a subsidiary of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation. The Corporation and

its subsidiaries are committed to mentoring and educating at-risk youth through vocational training and multi-disciplinary, arts-focused programs and workshops. In 2010, President Barack Obama named Strickland to the White House Council for Community Solutions, and in 2011, he received the Goi Peace Award.

"His work is very inspiring and his personal story itself is very compelling," said President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz. "He uses a very innovative way that is a model now for inner cities to reach kids through the arts in creative ways."

Alturki, whose husband Khalid Ali served as a trustee at the College from 1977-1987, has lived for over 40 years in Saudi Arabia and is the founder of a dual-language, coeducational school; a nonprofit

publishing company specializing in books in Arabic; and an educational consulting firm. Wolff is Adams University Professor at Harvard University, where he has taught music since 1976. Wolk, Middlebury alumnus and president of Castleton State College in Castleton, Vt., has served in Vermont as a state senator, education commissioner and policy chief under former governor Howard Dean.

Frederick Fritz has been a trustee at the College since 1999 and board chair since 2004. Martha, a former senior associate at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, is a board member at the Henry Sheldon Museum and a member of Friends of the Middlebury College Museum of Art and of the Middlebury Arts Council.

Fritz's recognition accompanies

SEE TRUSTEE, PAGE 2

LoFo graffiti ignites art vs. vandalism standoff

By Kyle Finck

The blank walls of Lower Forest (LoFo) were hit with a barrage of graffiti during Winter Term and February in what College officials have called vandalism, but what some students see as much-needed art.

Prior to the renovation of Forest Hall in the summer of 2011, Lower Forest, or LoFo, was home to numerous murals and other art.

"When I first arrived at Middlebury, LoFo ... was a changing art space," wrote Alex Benepe '09 in an email. While at the College, Benepe led many of the art projects that adorned the walls of the space. "There were three or four murals spread out through the space at various times."

Benepe praised the renovations, but said he missed the "grittiness" and the "organic feeling of it [LoFo]," arguing that the clean, renovated space "feels like a mental asylum [and] needs a coating of paint."

When Forest was renovated, Cook Commons Coordinator Linda Schiffer, Project Manager Tom McGinn and Assistant Director of Facilities Services Linda Ross met to decide the fate of LoFo.

"We decided that it would primarily be used for parties,

and that everything would be painted over for a fresh start and that it would be kept neutral so that everybody would be comfortable," Schiffer said.

It is unclear whether administrators and the students who painted the space met before the building was renovated.

"The reason behind spray painting LoFo was to reclaim the space for student use," wrote a junior, who participated in the spray painting and wished to remain anonymous for fear of disciplinary action from the College in an email. "I believe that the number of student spaces on campus is diminishing and that administrative acts such as painting over the artwork in LoFo do not allow for the necessary outlet students need within an oppressive institution."

Graffiti was found in four instances occurring between late January and Feb. 23, according to Ross.

"It was treated as dorm damage," wrote Ross in an email. "We were with the understanding that this space was not to have the same type of artwork it had had in the past after the renovations were completed this summer."

The junior said that if stu-

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STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY SPRING



ANDREW PODRYGULA

Spring arrived early to Vermont last week, as temperatures topped 80 degrees in some parts of the Champlain Valley on Sunday. Taking advantage of the warm weather, Earl Atte-Flynn '13 and Connor Fitzsimmons '12 practiced capoeira on Battell Beach Tuesday afternoon.

Forum continues alcohol debate

By Danny Zhang and Jeremy Kallan

On the evening of Monday, March 19, the Task Force on Alcohol and Social Life hosted an open forum in McCullough Social Space to continue an ongoing dialogue among students, faculty and staff about the impact of alcohol on the greater community and the overall social scene on campus.

The panel consisted of Sergeant Michael Christopher of the Middlebury Police Department, Director of Public Safety Lisa Burchard and Public Safety Officer Chris Thompson. While the task force had hoped to bring in the Vermont Liquor Inspector and a staff member at Porter Hospital, neither was available to attend the forum.

THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL ON COMMUNITY

Christopher and Burchard opened the forum, speaking on

the harmful impacts of alcohol they have seen, ranging from highway accidents to personal violence to property damage. Thompson also acknowledged the "need to find common ground for students to blow off steam and be safe," and praised the sober friend program.

Addressing trends in alcohol-related incidents over the past five years, Christopher noted a slight increase in two areas: underage drinking and use of false identification for alcohol purchases. The overall number of alcohol-related incidents, however, held relatively steady and the number of DUIs given to college students have dropped.

This forum was intended to "give the students a different perspective on drinking other than coming from within the College," said Head football coach Bob Ritter, a co-chair of the task force,

after the forum. "To give a face to the real impact that it does have on the greater community." He said the event was moderately successful in this regard.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Since two of the three panel members were staff from Public Safety, many of the student questions focused on the department's role on campus. Students raised the widely held sentiment that Public Safety's actions force students, especially those under 21, to drink behind closed doors. Public Safety did not specifically address this concern directly, though Burchard said that a whole bottle of hard alcohol is simply not meant to be consumed in a short period of time, regardless of a person's age.

"There is an inherent tension between what Public Safety views

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MEET THE SCHIZOPHRENIC RATS FROM BIHALL
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BEYOND THE BUBBLE

BY BRONWYN OATLEY

The French presidential campaign has been temporarily suspended and the country has been placed on a "scarlet alert" after an armed gunman killed three children and one rabbi outside of a Jewish school in Toulouse on Monday.

The attack was committed around noon on Monday, March 19, as parents were bringing their children to school. The gunman arrived on a scooter and opened fire on all those in the area. He shot and killed 30-year old Rabbi Jonathan Sandler and his two young daughters. The suspect then dismounted, shooting and wounding a 17-year-old boy. He then chased an eight-year-old girl, before shooting her in the head at close range.

According to *The New York Times* local prosecutor Michel Valet said that the killer "shot at everything he could see, children and adults, and some children were chased into the school."

Authorities are tracking the murderer and believe he may be responsible for two other incidents that occurred in France last week. In the earlier incidents, three French soldiers of North African and West Indian descent were targeted, resulting in three deaths. In each of the three incidents, the same .45-caliber automatic pistol was used, and the suspect traveled to and from the crime scenes on a scooter.

In an interview with the *Times*, Elisabeth Allannic, a spokeswoman for the Paris prosecutor's office, explained that the attacks have all been motivated by ethnic hatred.

"We are faced with an individual who targets his victims specifically. He targets his victims for what they represent," she said.

Some have speculated that the shooter might have been a part of a group of neo-Nazi soldiers from the 17th Parachute Transport Regiment who were court-martialed several years ago after participating in a ritual involving the Hitler salute. Police have identified that three of the four soldiers killed in the attacks last week were former members of the regiment.

Others suspect that the shooter may be a part of a domestic Islamic terror cell that holds anti-Semitic leanings.

The recent incidents prompted French President Nicolas Sarkozy to call for a moment of silence at 11 a.m. on Tuesday morning, calling the event a "national tragedy."

"Everything must be put into action so the killer can be arrested and made to account for his crimes," Sarkozy said. "It is not just the Jewish community that is concerned. It is the whole national community. On the territory of the republic, one does not assassinate children like this."

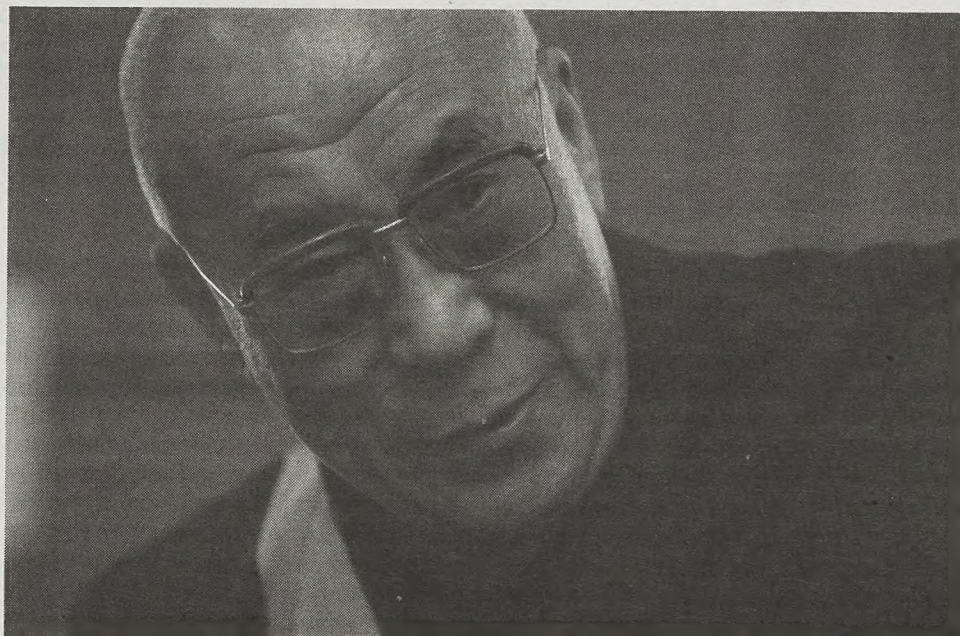
Both the French president and his main opposition rivals in the upcoming presidential election have suspended their campaigns for several days, vowing not to use the attack as a political tool.

Nonetheless, analysts have been quick to speculate upon the electoral ramifications of the murders. *Globe and Mail* columnist Doug Sanders explained that Sarkozy will "almost certainly have to drop his 'too many foreigners' rhetoric — a stance employed by the UMP leader throughout the campaign." Sanders explained that if the killer turns out to be a far-right activist, many voters might be encouraged to shift away from Sarkozy, supporting instead the pro-immigrant policies of socialist leader Francois Hollande.

If however, the killer turns out to be a member of an Islamic militant group, voters could flock in the other direction — towards the xenophobic policies of National Front leader, Marine Le Pen.

Until the killer is found, French authorities will be present in higher numbers outside of religious schools, airports and train stations, in order to protect citizens.

Tibetan leader visits College in October



COURTESY: MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will make his third appearance at the College this October.

By Alex Edel

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama will visit the College on Oct. 12-13 to give two talks surrounding the theme, "Cultivating Hope, Wisdom and Compassion." The visit will be His Holiness the Dalai Lama's third to the Middlebury campus, following visits in 1984 and 1990.

The first of his two talks, titled "Educating the Heart," will take place on Friday, Oct. 12 at 1:45 p.m. and will be catered only to the College. The second talk, "Finding Common Ground: Ethics for a Whole World," will be open to the public and take place on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 9:30 a.m.

The visit was made possible through the work of a steering committee at the College, which worked with the Venerable Lama Tenzin Dhonden, personal peace emissary for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The process began in 2009 when Venerable Lama Tenzin gave a talk at the College on Buddhism and spoke with Chaplain Laurie Jordan. Although the school had previously tried to invite his Holiness the Dalai Lama to campus, it wasn't until the venerable Lama aided the College that the Chaplain and President Ronald D. Liebowitz were successful.

In August 2010, Jordan and Liebowitz sent an invitation under the guidance of Venerable Lama Tenzin which was hand-delivered to the Tibetan spiritual leader. In fall 2011, Jordan was notified that His Holiness the Dalai Lama had accepted the invitation for the date of Oct. 13, which fell on Fall Break weekend. After some negotiations and the school's willingness to provide quick transportation for His Holiness and the group of monks with whom he will be traveling, it was agreed that His Holiness would also speak on Friday, Oct. 12, in order to give more students the opportunity to attend the talk.

Detailed ticket information will be released by April 30, once the College and the Venerable Lama Tenzin coordinate a fair way to distribute the limited number of tickets available.

"There is no venue that is large enough to hold as many people as might be interested," said Jordan. "It is also really important that it is not only students but also faculty, staff members."

His Holiness the Dalai Lama previously visited Middlebury in 1984 for a talk entitled "Christ and the Bodhisattva," and then six years later in 1990 for "Spirit and Nature: Religion, Ethics and Environmental Crisis."

"I don't know how many schools have had His Holiness the Dalai Lama for three visits," said Liebowitz. "I am very excited by it and I think it is great that our students will have this opportunity."

Twenty-two years have elapsed since the last visit, though, and with a new generation of students come a new set of issues facing the College and the larger community. Students' relationships with religion — many shaped by the terrorism of the last decade — have changed as well, Jordan noted.

"In [students'] minds, the standard

thinking about religion is, 'Oh, religion causes war and fanaticism,'" she said. "When I was growing up, religion was in the forefront of the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam movement, so it was a completely different way of thinking," she said.

The events of our day, though, need not color our views of religion, Jordan added.

"It is still the case that there are a lot of interesting things going on that are motivated by Muslims and Jews and Christians and Buddhists doing the work that is needed to solve global problems, which was part of our thinking."

Throughout history members of various religious groups, including Buddhists, have dealt with and overcome challenges that come with the problems that plague society today, Jordan observed. From simple long-term projects such as building a cathedral to more overarching goals such as non-violence, Jordan believes that religious leaders can bring this experience to all members of society.

The theme "Cultivating Hope, Wisdom and Compassion" is designed to give students a chance to learn how to approach the problems in the world today, and in particular the ways in which people can approach solving long-term problems when they themselves may not see any personal benefits.

Jordan cited global climate change, as a particularly salient issue for Middlebury students that will require the type of long-term behavioral changes His Holiness's talk will explore. Religion, she added, has "specialized" in the ability to organize people to "make [the] necessary changes in their lives, even [when those changes] may not seem to be in their self-interest in the short term."

Liebowitz echoed Jordan's thoughts, describing how the talk might teach students not only how to deal with these issues individually, but also how to approach them as a society.

"Even if we weren't a school that fostered and really valued a global spirit and outlook, his message certainly is global in how it forces us to think beyond ourselves," said Liebowitz. "Not only on a micro level of each individual, how we fit into society, but also our society as a whole, and what type of sacrifices one makes or could make, not for immediate recognized benefits, but without immediate rewards. Such sacrifice is in the long-term interest of society and for mankind."

As the foremost leader on Buddhist thought in the world, His Holiness the Dalai Lama consistently leads the discourse in these ideas, and the hope is that he will be able to spread his wisdom to the student body, faculty, staff and the greater Vermont community.

"As someone who was at his last two visits to the campus, [His Holiness the Dalai Lama] is a compelling individual with a great presence," said Liebowitz. "Hopefully that will inspire people to think about these issues that he has been thinking about, speaking about and sharing for a long time."

A correction to the SGA budget article

On Thursday, March 15, *The Middlebury Campus* published an article on the Student Government Association (SGA) budget process. The information in it had several factual errors and misleading statements. With the cooperation of the SGA, below we hope to clarify where the article was either incorrect or misleading. *The Campus* regrets the errors

- The original title of the article read SGA "SGA debates use of \$400k surplus," which implies the organization took in more money annually than it spent. It currently runs a deficit, and the extra funds are best conceived of as a "reserve."

- The article stated that the SGA currently holds over \$400,000 in reserves. That number was from the start of the fiscal year, July 1, 2011; the current reserve is roughly \$150,000. The final amount of reserves at the end of year is expected to be roughly \$325,000 once student organizations return unused funds.

- Total resources on hand at the start of fiscal year 2011-2012 were roughly \$1.3 million. The number cited — \$1.085 million — was the total operating budget.

- The article confused the old and new SGA financing systems. The old system involved allocating all necessary funding in the spring budgeting season, and organizations were beholden to the line-items that were approved by the Committee. The Committee's "new system" relies on under-allocation during spring budgeting with greater opportunities to request funding throughout the year as well as less regulation and oversight. This is intended to give member organizations the freedom and discretion to hold events, make purchases and start new initiatives as they arise.

Trustee honored

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the March 15 announcement, via an all-faculty, all-staff email from Liebowitz, of Fritz's stepping down from his position as chair of the Board of Trustees. Marna Whittington, currently a vice chair, has been nominated by the Trustees and Governance Council of the Board to succeed him as chair.

In his memo, Liebowitz pointed to several major accomplishments distinguishing Fritz's eight-year tenure as chair, including the acquisition of the Monterey Institute, the construction of the biomass plant and the expansion of the C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad. Liebowitz also observed Fritz's "steady handling of the economic crisis" and "ongoing support for fiscal discipline."

"Middlebury will be forever grateful to [Fritz] for his extraordinary contributions as chair and his steady hand during challenging times for the College," Liebowitz wrote. "I know he will continue to provide wise counsel to the Board and the administration. I look forward to working with [Whittington] as the next Board chair and drawing upon her great experience in higher education, in business, and as a long-time College trustee."

Fritz will remain on both the Monterey and Middlebury boards.

"Eight years as chair is roughly twice the average tenure at Middlebury, and governance changes are healthy," wrote Fritz in an email. "Overall, my most rewarding takeaway as Chair was the professionalism, collegiality and teamwork of board members with the College administration under [Liebowitz] as we worked on large challenges and opportunities. Our discussions, including dealing with the financial meltdown, focusing on the goals set in our Strategic Plan, Monterey and adding a fourth leg to future revenue sources like Middlebury Interactive Languages always drew on rigorous analysis, diverse points of view and a 25- to 50-year perspective."

Fritz also expects to enjoy some increased personal time.

"During that period I was also blessed with seven new grandchildren with not always enough time to spend with them and their families," wrote Fritz. "I can also spend a bit more time gardening in Cornwall."

Partisans gear up for elections

By Katie Theiss

As the 2012 presidential election nears, the College Republicans and the College Democrats are both taking measures to spike student interest in the election and get students involved in politics.

On March 8, both the Democrats and Republicans helped with MiddVote by providing students with the necessary information to register to vote either in Vermont or their home state with an absentee ballot.

According to President of the College Democrats Hillary Aidun '12, 140 students participated in MiddVote, up from about 60 students in last semester's drive.

The College Democrats have also been spreading political awareness by regularly contributing op-eds for the *Campus*. Aidun states that these op-eds are designed to "raise awareness about the Obama Administration's platform and achievements."

When the general election season begins next fall, the College Democrats will also organize a phone bank to urge voters to vote for the Obama and for the other Democratic candidates.

The College Republicans have also been spreading awareness on campus. In addition to writing an Op-Ed for the *Campus* every week, on March 15 they brought Fox News Correspondent Andrea Tantaros to campus to discuss the media's influence on the 2012 Republican primaries, and how a left-leaning media benefits Obama's reelection campaign.

"At a dominantly liberal school, it is exciting to have somebody come in and shed some light on the Republican viewpoint," said President of the College Republicans Katie Earle '12. "It is also a great way to learn more about who the candidates are."

The College Republicans also use their meetings, which are open to the school, in order to spread the conservative viewpoint around campus. Professors and students with more liberal views often attend the meetings as well.

"It is important for students to learn the other viewpoint, and our meetings help bring the conservative viewpoint to a dominantly liberal campus," said Earle.

The College Republicans are also plan-

ning to make posters listing the main ideas behind the platforms of the presidential candidates in order to raise general awareness on campus. The College Republicans are also trying to involve prospective students in politics on campus, as they will hold a meeting for prospective students during this spring's prospective student preview days.

Both Earle and Aidun state that a main object of their efforts is to get students involved in politics regardless of their views.

"Although I clearly have my own political views and priorities, it is most important to me that students vote for any party," said Aidun. "We live in a robust democracy where people have fought and died so that we could vote, and we should participate as loudly as we can. ... At the end of the day, people elect politicians. I know that if a higher percentage of Americans voted, our leaders would respond, and we could change the political landscape."

Similarly, Earle said, "The election is such a great opportunity to learn. ... It is a citizen's duty to vote, and every voice matters."

Two students win Watson Fellowship

By Lauren Davidson

Winners of the prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship were announced on Thursday, March 15. Rhiya Trivedi '12 and Zaheena Rasheed '12 were among the 40 people selected from a pool of over 700 candidates nationwide.

The Watson Fellowship is a one-year grant awarded to graduating seniors for independent study to be conducted outside the United States. Fellows must remain abroad for a full 365 days to pursue their proposed projects. Recipients receive a stipend for the fellowship year of \$25,000.

"In an extremely competitive process, we're delighted that two of our four nominees received Watson Fellowships," said Associate Director for Civic Engagement and Internships Peggy Burns. "All four proposals were so very strong and truly reflected the diversity of interests and passions on the Middlebury campus, ranging from gender identity to democracy movements to the impact of stove technology to reality-based tourism."

Rasheed will be spending her fellowship year in Chile, South Africa, Serbia and Egypt to study successful nonviolent movements with the hope of understanding the skills needed to organize such campaigns so that they will have higher rates of success than their violent counterparts. Rasheed did not respond to multiple requests for comments on her grant.

Trivedi plans to spend her year exploring the potential for efficient stove distribution in Malawi, Mozambique, India, Bolivia and Guatemala and its potential to influence local climates. Her project will explore "the potential for historically disempowered communities to take back their climate and their self-determination."

"Stoves have been distributed for 30 years, but not until now has it had a climate dimension to it," said Trivedi. "I think could really scale up what people are doing and that will make the private and public sectors want to distribute stoves more and make it more likely that people will want to use them."

Trivedi said that while other fellowships focus primarily on formal research, the Watson Fellowship encourages observation, exploration and travel in international settings.

"What I have learned through the application process is that they want you to be 150 percent committed to whatever it is you are doing and that you demonstrate that this is an integral part of who you are," said Trivedi.

Watson Fellows must remain unaffiliated with any academic institution or volunteer program while conducting research, allowing fellows to seek answers to the questions that they believe are most pertinent, encouraging complete independence in the process.

"I'm in a position to listen to people and not have them associate me with any foreign agency or effort other than my own," said Trivedi.

An information session will be held in late April for all juniors interested in the application process for the 2013-2014 Watson Fellowship.

Forum discusses Midd community, culture

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as a successful party and what the students see as a successful party," said Ritter. "And what students want to have the freedom to do and what is legal."

Ritter and Smith Abbott acknowledged the difficulty of this tension. Smith Abbott said desire for more trust and freedom with Public Safety policies has potential, but requires a "leap of faith because there is not a lot of evidence for that."

"The Task Force floated the idea of abolishing the citation system," wrote Nathan LaBarba '14, a member of the SGA and the Task Force, in an email. "Our J-term forums and focus groups, though, revealed that students generally approve of this system and wouldn't want to see it abolished. We do, however, need to be more clear with students from the outset about the precise nature of this system, the severity of certain violations, etc."

RESOURCES AND PARTY REGISTRATION

Other contentious points of discussion were party registration policies and current resources available for students.

"From looking at data on party registration forms," Burchard said, "the number of large parties has decreased over the years."

MCAB President Nadia Schreiber '12 said that the current registration procedures are not as onerous as students perceive them to be.

"There is a sense of paralysis here [regarding social life resources] that should not be the case at a small college," Smith Abbott said, "there's a lack of clarity about access to funds and spaces."

BUILDING COMMUNITY

In the second half of the forum, the discussion also shifted to broad themes of community and culture. Ross Commons Head Maria Hatjigeorgiou challenged students to question why they feel the need to drink.

Task Force member Nathan LaBarba '14 noted, in an email, a few possible reasons for excessive drinking: "peer pressure, lack of knowledge of limits, and a desire to escape from other troubles in life."

"We have a community problem, not an alcohol problem," said SGA Treasurer and Tavern member Scott Klenet '12. "When you're in an environment where you're trying to make friends fast, alcohol is an easy tool to lean on."

"When I went to school here, I don't remember feeling the pressure of taking shots behind closed doors," said Ross Commons CRA Rachel Ochako '11. "There was so much happening."

Ochako also spoke about the pressures of dangerous drinking on residential life staff and the need for more education for first-years, though she didn't think orientation would be the appropriate venue for that education.

Smith Abbott suggested the idea of a "social honor code" to help set a standard of appropriate behavior for students. She said the Task Force has examined policies at other schools with and without such a code.

"We want to be careful that we don't let ourselves off the hook too easily when it comes to these things ... [by saying] 'we are so unlike a place where something like this

works,'" said Smith Abbott.

Ritter mentioned creating personal connections with Public Safety and custodial staff during a student's first year as a way to build trust and partnership. He added that the disconnect has also extended to include students themselves.

One of the main goals of the Task Force is to build a greater sense of community, Ritter said, by "connecting the Monday through Friday students with the Saturday night students, trying to deal with the problem behaviors of alcohol and trying to get people to understand that it does impact us all."

COMPILING RECOMMENDATIONS

After the forum, Smith Abbott and Ritter said that although they wished the turnout was greater, they thought quality and diversity of insight was helpful.

Ritter said he estimates 90 percent of the ideas being discussed in the Task Force now are student-generated, "from our discussions, the forums and students outside the committee." Although they have examined national studies and other resources, any recommendations will be "home-grown."

As the Task Force moves forward, Smith Abbott said they will focus on a few key categories for improvement. These include education and support systems, party monitors, partnerships among student group for diverse programming, the role of residential life, creative disciplinary outcomes addressing natural consequences for actions and improved education about resources available to students.



Irkutsk, Russia

The place looked pretty harmless from the outside, just a typical Soviet-era one-story concrete building painted pink. After entering the first door you have two choices: the "men's side" or the "women's side"—kind of what I imagine it would be like to enter a prison. I entered the small men's salon where two women were standing giving some old guys haircuts.

The middle chair was free. After standing and looking at myself dumbly in the central mirror for a couple minutes, one of the ladies standing sighed and called, "Natasha!" into a clearly visible side room where one lady sat texting and the other looking at the calculator in her hand. "What do you want?" Natasha asked me. In Siberia, there are three types of haircuts: "Simple," "Canadian" and "Stylish." I thought about going for the "Stylish," but opted against it for fear of looking like a Gulag victim. I went for "The Canadian, but not too short, please." "Come again?" she answered. "But not too short," I said. No answer.

Anyway, taking a look at my curly head as if it had committed some crime, she grabbed the largest shears out of that strangely disconcerting blue disinfecting liquid. I should note that only about 0.1 percent of Russians have curly hair and they are usually Romanian, Latvian, Jewish or come from other ethnic groups that have been marginalized at one point or another.

After a minute of attacking my head with shears, she said angrily, pushing my skull to the left, "Hold your head stronger," as if I were a statue that came to life and needed to be put back into my molding. Between bouts of removing enormous chunks of my hair, she would zero in on an area for a minute as if trying to annihilate all life there.

Then came the ears. Most hair-cutters in the free world would delicately snip and buzz around these parts, but Natasha approached my head with the belief that my ears had somehow been placed on the wrong part of my head, or should not be there at all. At one point I almost had to duck to avoid her lopping off the top half of my right ear. She then brought my head back forward with the force of a former USSR weight-lifter before doping control laws spread east. It serves to be noted that Russia invented the kettle-bell.

"Straight?" she said. Tempted to say, "Why, yes, I am," I instead replied, "Yes, please," with reference to my sideburns. She had already begun buzzing when I looked up and saw that I still had overgrown hair that mimicked bangs hanging down in front of my face. I asked if she could make the cut shorter in the front, to which she snapped, "I am not done cutting your hair," adding a one-syllable word for emphasis at the end which can essentially be translated to "damnit."

After fulfilling my wish to get rid of those ridiculous, childish bangs that all Russian boys under 20 wear, she came to the realization that her artwork (or shear-job) was a failure. I could tell by looking at her in the mirror that we would have both been better off if I had not even bothered coming in today. Needless to say, it was the worst six-dollar haircut ever. This tragedy was reaffirmed by my track coach here, who, after asking me what happened, recommended me to a friend of hers, "so that you don't have to walk around looking like *this*." Needless to say, the "Canadian" haircut is a misnomer and a general disgrace to my Canadian culture.

COLLEGE SHORTS

NEWS FROM ACROSS
THE NATION

COMPILED BY THE EDITORS

CU Boulder offers new conservative programming

To counter criticism that speakers hosted by the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU-Boulder) are too left-leaning, the school will be hosting a series of conservative scholars over the next three years thanks to \$1 million in donations to fund the guests, according to local Boulder newspaper, *The Daily Camera*.

Early plans hoped to establish a more permanent position for a "Visiting Chair in Conservative Thought and Policy," but economic restrictions have led CU-Boulder to create a temporary three-year position as a pilot program of sorts. The first scholar is planned to join the school in spring 2013.

CU-Boulder administrators plan for the scholar to teach political science topics such as the Federalist papers, theories of small government, conservative economic theories and historical political ideologies of influential politicians such as John Locke and James Madison.

— *The Daily Camera*

UVM seeks to cut ties to radio broadcasting Limbaugh

Faculty members at the University of Vermont (UVM) have called for the state university to cut its ties with the local radio station, WVMT, for broadcasting a nationally-syndicated talk show hosted by Rush Limbaugh.

The request that UVM end its contractual relationship with WVMT, which will bring in \$80,000 over the next four years, was prompted by Limbaugh's use of derogatory remarks about a female law student who testified before Congress about the right of women to receive insurance coverage for contraceptives. Amid mass criticism, Limbaugh later apologized for the comments.

The UVM Faculty Senate noted that WVMT broadcasts Limbaugh and also "advertises itself as the voice of the Catamounts," approved a resolution Monday declaring that Limbaugh's "recent statements conflict with UVM community standards."

However, Paul S. Goldman, owner and general manager of WVMT, said that Limbaugh's voice is not the defining voice of the radio station, saying "you cannot connect the dots between UVM and Rush Limbaugh."

— *Burlington Free Press*

Obama chooses Barnard over Columbia for commencement

President Obama announced on March 3 that he will give the commencement speech at Barnard College in New York City this spring, spurning his alma mater, Columbia University. The decision created an uproar among Columbia students, many of whom took to the internet to vent their frustrations.

Though it maintains some curricular ties to the Ivy League school, Barnard is an independent women's college with its own trustees and president separate from Columbia. Many people say that Obama's decision is political, as gaining women's votes are crucial to his reelection bid in 2012.

Jill Abramson, executive editor of *The New York Times*, was the planned Barnard speaker, but agreed to step down in favor of the President. Rejected by the President, Columbia will host John R. MacArthur, president and publisher of Harper's Magazine as their graduation speaker.

Obama follows in a long line of notable Barnard speakers, including New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

— *The New York Times*

Without LoFo, artist hints further graffiti

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents were not given alternative avenues for their art, the College would continue to see such vandalism.

"I would not be surprised if we see an increase in 'vandalism' in other places around campus now that the student art space in LoFo has been repeatedly painted over," the source wrote.

The most recent incident occurred on March 9, when 12,000 Post-It notes were stuck to the LoFo walls and drawn on by a number of students. The Post-It notes were promptly taken down and classified as vandalism.

A letter was found taped to a wall after the Post-Its were removed. It read: "This used to be a student space. We would like it back, please. We would like students to have the freedom to use this space as they please, without administrative supervision. We are responsible adults and we demand to be listened to, treated with respect, and trusted. Blank walls make for empty minds."

The note was signed Free Skool, an organization with which Barrett Smith '13 is involved with. Smith said that the project was intended to serve as a "visual stimulus," a means of inciting conversation about bringing the student art space back. He added that the note only represented the views of a few members and not the entire Free Skool group.

"It [the Post-It incident] was to put color back into that space, because the walls are very grey-washed, empty and uninviting," Smith said. "I miss that space [LoFo prior to renovations]; it's a shame that it's gone. We need to work to re-establish it going forward."

In response to the Free Skool note, Schiffer said she is willing to open a dialogue about the use of LoFo, but that the "guerilla artwork" must stop.

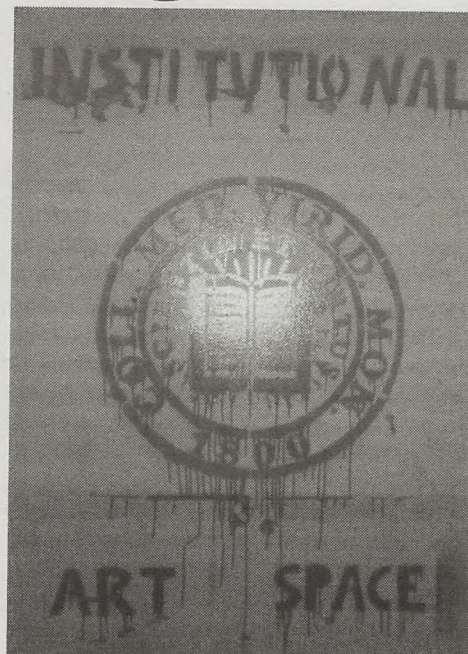
"I understand guerilla tactics," she said. "I did it in the '60s and '70s when I was in school. But for this specific thing, I guarantee you'll accomplish more if you come in and we open a dialogue. Every guerilla soldier at some point must come to the bargaining table after making their point."

Schiffer said that the dorm damage has been charged to the all-campus fund. She acknowledged that if a person came forward, he or she would have to pay for some of the damage.

"In the past, when a student comes forward and says, 'I was horsing around and I put a baseball through a window,' nine out of 10 times, that student doesn't get charged for the full damage," Schiffer said. "I much prefer if a student comes forward. It saves me a lot of time and I recognize that student's honesty."

Benepe said LoFo represented more than just an art space in his time at the College.

"Middlebury is such a whitewashed,



COURTESY: LINDA ROSS

"Guerilla artwork" has taken over the walls in Lower Forest, sparking a debate over the role of art in student spaces.

clean-trimmed place, and while there is a rhyme and reason for that and everyone can certainly appreciate the immaculate, white marble feel of the place, I think its important to have special places where young people can loosen up a little bit, get weird and make a mess," he wrote.

He said that the space created lasting memories for many students, which the College should value.

"We may have done some damage to a crappy room but the amount of fun and novelty we contributed to the lives of the people who enjoyed that space and came to our parties is invaluable to the College," he said.

Benepe also offered a possible solution to the graffiti vandalism, satisfying students' thirst for art in LoFo and the administration's need for a certain level of control over the space.

"The College needs to find students to create murals again," wrote Benepe. "It doesn't have to be graffiti. I am sure a really cool and unique mural could be done in there, and should be done in there."

Schiffer called Benepe's idea a "viable option," but said that the students living in Forest Hall would have to sign off on any large mural painting.

Student artists said that Schiffer's demand for the "guerilla art" to end was heeded.

"I believe that no permanent 'guerilla' artwork has graced the walls of LoFo since the administration repainted the walls approximately three weeks ago," the anonymous source wrote. "As such, I believe Linda Schiffer's request has been fulfilled, and I look forward to the announcement about a forum to discuss the use of the space."

For additional pictures of the graffiti in Lower Forest, see <http://www.middleburycampus.com/go/thecampus>.

JusTalks gets initial Old Chapel nod

By Emily Singer

On Thursday, March 15, a group of students met with some members of the administration to discuss the JusTalks initiative. Old Chapel has agreed to continue working with the students behind JusTalks to develop a more concrete proposal for the program.

Created by a group of approximately 20 or 30 students, JusTalks was initially proposed as a mandatory forum for first-years during their first Winter Term "dedicated to free communication, to thoughtful discourse, to supportive self-analysis, to leaning into discomfort and to dynamic community building." Over 50 student groups have endorsed JusTalks according to a sign-on letter on the group's website.

"We had a great discussion, basically just trying to flesh out their proposal, ask questions, bring up issues that would need to be explored throughout the process," said Dean of the College and Chief Diversity Officer Shirley M. Collado.

Rhiya Trivedi '12, one of the leaders of JusTalks, believes the program will facilitate conversations that are necessary on the College's campus.

"For too long students, for whatever reasons, have been denied the opportunity to reflect on issues of identity, privilege, power and empathy," wrote Trivedi in an email.

"The time has most definitely come for us to share this discomfort and be sure that all Middlebury students ... are given the language and the skills necessary to achieve greater inclusion, and to speak out against exclusion for the sake of our own community and the world we are inevitably to occupy, and to influence," she continued.

Fellow JusTalks leader Hudson Cavanagh '14 is both optimistic and enthusiastic about developing the proposal further, saying that the pitch to Old Chapel could not have gone better.

"Moving forward, there are still a lot of moving pieces in terms of logistics, finalizing funding and institutionalizing the project so it doesn't disappear when we graduate, because we hope this initiative becomes a piece of what Middlebury students think about when they think about [Winter Term]," Cavanagh wrote in an email.

A select group of JusTalks students will be meeting with Dean of Students Katy Smith Abbott, Associate Dean of Students for Student Activities and Orientation JJ Boggs, Dean of Curriculum Bob Cluss and Collado in the week after Spring Break to "look at the proposal a little more closely," according to Collado.

"The questions [asked], I think, pushed the group, and also allowed us as administration to really think more carefully about, 'Could we use [Winter Term] in this way?'" Collado said. "Using resources and opportunities we have here already, like [Winter Term], I thought it was a really creative way to think about establishing the kind of space that these students think we need."

The students behind JusTalks will be hosting open community forums after Spring Break to garner feedback from fellow students.

VISIT MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

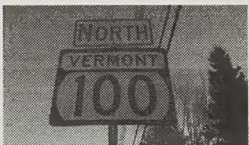
FOR THIS WEEK'S
SGA UPDATE



PUBLIC SAFETY LOG MARCH 12-18, 2012

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
3/17/12	8:59 a.m.	Vandalism	Ceiling tile broken	Hepburn	REFERRED TO DOC AND COMMONS DEAN
3/17/12	1:45 a.m.	Disturbance	Noise	Atwater B	REFERRED TO DOC AND COMMONS DEAN
3/17/12	11:00 p.m.	Vandalism	Chair thrown from fire escape	Pearsons	REFERRED TO DOC AND COMMONS DEAN
3/17/12	2:55 p.m.	Disrespect of official	Providing misinformation	Palmer	REFERRED TO DOC AND COMMONS DEAN
3/18/12	10:03 a.m.	Agency Assist-MPD	Intoxicated student	St. Mary's Cemetery	REFERRED TO DOC AND COMMONS DEAN
3/18/12	7:06 p.m.	Fire	Failure to attain permit	Meeker House	REFERRED TO DOC AND COMMONS DEAN
3/18/12	1:06 a.m.	Assault/Battery	No details provided	FIC Freeman	REFERRED TO DOC AND COMMONS DEAN

The Department of Public Safety reported giving 10 alcohol citations between 3/12/2012 and 3/18/2012.



SKYDIVING OVER VERMONT

By Stephanie Rousch

For many, the thought of jumping out of a moving airplane at 12,000 feet seems like a scene from a nightmare, an anxiety dream of the worst sort. But one mid-October afternoon as Sara Arno '14 walked across Battell Beach, she noticed that the sky was exceptionally blue.

"Today's the day," she said to herself. And indeed it was. Arno, along with two of her suitemates, Sarah Marcus '14 and Adam Schreiber '14, hopped in their car and made their way to Vermont Skydiving Adventures, located just thirty minutes from campus.

"The signs weren't very clear," said Schreiber, "so we ended up pulling into a donkey farm."

After admiring the donkeys for a few minutes, the group continued another hundred yards down the road to their final destination, Vermont Skydiving Adventures.

Ole Thomsen and his wife started the company in 1992, almost 20 years ago today. They were originally located in Shelburne and moved to Vergennes in 1994.

"When we first started out we thought it would be more of a hobby," explained Thomsen, but he now works full-time in the summer to keep up with the demand for skydiving in Vermont. On a busy day, they can get up to 20 jumpers, especially in their busiest months, August and September. Although it may seem like college students would make up much of their demographic, the people skydiving in Vermont are from all walks of life.

"We get couples, families, friends," said Thomsen.

They even set a Vermont state record for oldest skydiver with a 92-year-old. The only requirement is that you must be 18 to fall. Other than that, anything goes. While it might not seem super-likely for a small mom and pop skydiving company like Vermont Skydiving to be successful, they do some serious business in the name of some serious fun.

When asked if any of them were nervous to skydive, Arno, Marcus and Schreiber all shook their heads.

"I definitely wasn't nervous," explained Schreiber, "I was more excited, super excited, giddy excited."

All three spoke of the surreal feeling you have being at 12,000 feet in a plane and knowing you're suddenly going to be freefalling toward that distant ground.

The scariest part was watching one another go out the plane window. As Schreiber was hurdled out of the plane, Arno had to crawl toward the window and wait her own turn.

"My tandem was chewing on a matchstick the whole time," she said, "but he

kept assuring me that he had done this about 10,000 times."

Clearly, he knew what he was doing.

Arno described how they jumped at the perfect time of day (and year), just as the sun was setting over the Adirondacks. From where they jumped they also had the illusion that they were jumping into Lake Champlain.

"It was peak fall foliage and after he pulled the parachute my dude started naming all the mountains in the Adirondacks we could see," said Arno, describing a seemingly perfect fall.

Once the parachute is pulled, the experience quickly changes from mind-boggling to serene, the second half of the fall providing a premium view of the Vermont landscape. Schreiber spoke of how he wanted to do flips and his tandem was all for it, but he doesn't even remember the first 10 seconds of the fall.

"So much happens so fast, I couldn't even process it,"

ADAM SCHREIBER '14

he said.

The question of whether or not they pulled their own parachutes elicited some blank stares. They all describe that it happened so fast you're not even sure what happened.

"My guy told me I pulled it, but I'm not sure that I did," said Schreiber.

When asked if they would do it again, all three immediately nod their heads.

Marcus exclaimed, "I want to so badly."

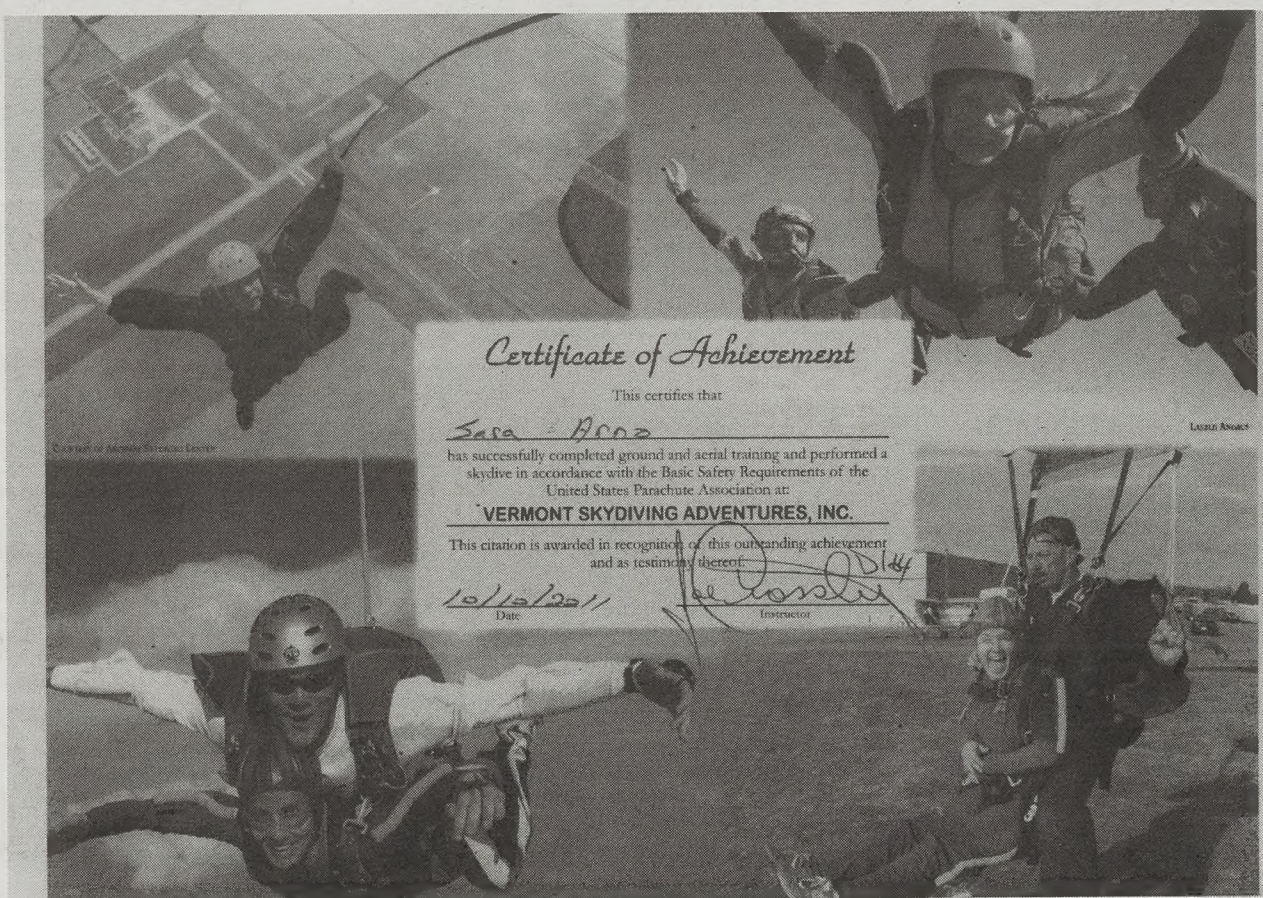
All three express a desire to skydive again, and as soon as possible. Schreiber said it was one of the most fun experiences he has ever had and recommends it to anyone even remotely interested.

"If you're planning on going anytime in your life you should just go now," he said.

Vermont Skydiving will be open on weekends starting in April, going into full-operation sometime in May. It costs

\$260 to jump for the first time with a tandem and Marcus assured me that it is completely worth it. Arno says that part of the reason why Middlebury students should consider skydiving is because you can see Middlebury College from the air.

All three agree that it was an experience they'll never forget and that there might be no place better than Vermont to do it.



COURTESY

Vermont Skydiving Adventure customers receive a certificate of achievement after their first skydive.

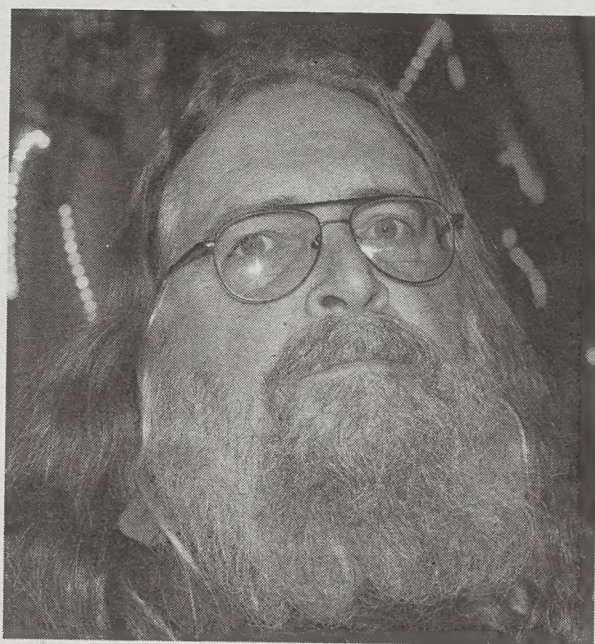
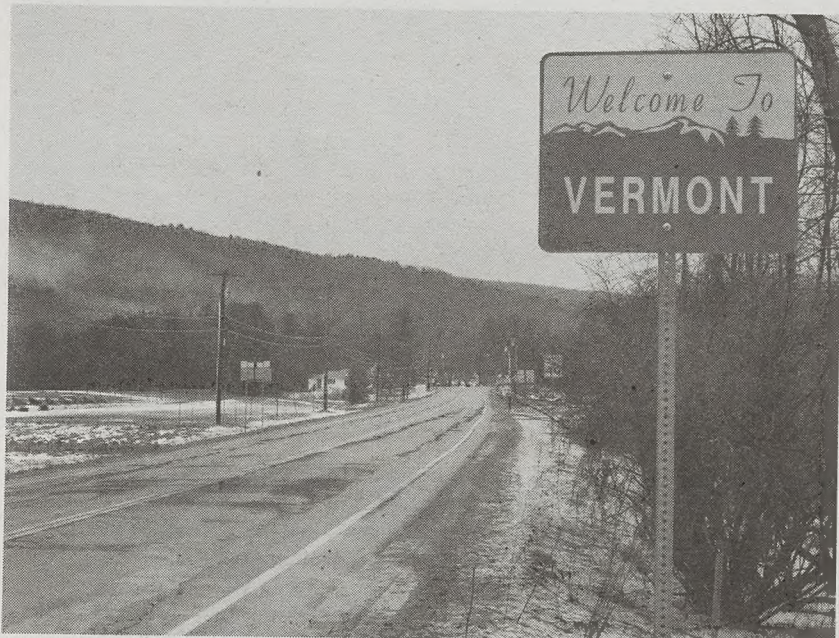


COURTESY

Marcus, Schreiber and Arno prepare for their skydiving adventure.

JOURNEYS ON ROUTE 100

This past January, Paul Rosenfeld '12 drove the entire length of Route 100 collecting interviews and stories from the people he met along the way. He is currently working on a radio piece that will be broadcast on Vermont Public Radio but has decided to share some of his stories with us in the Campus. This is the first in a series that he will be presenting throughout the remainder of the semester.



TOP LEFT: Wet roads and mist on the southern entrance of Route 100 near Stamford, Vt.

TOP RIGHT: Dennis Vadnais, owner of D's Doghouse and Tavern, near Rochester/Granville.

RIGHT: The milking pen at Lamphear's farm, which expanded to 500 cows in 1999.

PHOTOS BY PAUL ROSENFELD

By Paul Rosenfeld

It's like clockwork. Every autumn, tourists make the annual pilgrimage to view Vermont's fall foliage. They drive through, buy maple syrup, admire the "quaint" villages and head back wherever they came from. While tourism is an integral part of the state's economy, it is unfortunately becoming its only form of it.

This past January I traveled down Vermont's longest highway — route 100. Along the way, I stopped to interview dairy farmers, maple sugar producers and small business owners, hoping to understand what is happening to the state's economy and its people.

Years ago, Vermont used to be all subsistent farming, but in recent decades, tourism has taken over as the major source of income. According to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, in 1954 there were 10,527 dairy farms but, by 2010, that number had dropped to 1,055, and it continues to fall. As a result, Vermonters must look for work elsewhere.

Dennis Vadnais, the owner of D's Doghouse and Tavern, has been living in the Rochester/Granville area since 1971 and has witnessed firsthand the change in the landscape of the economy.

"The jobs are rough to come by, if you're not a logger or a carpenter you've gotta go out of town," he said.

These problems are only intensified with the increase in second home ownership. While tourism brings revenue to certain sectors of the state, the increase in second home ownership has forced many Vermonters out of their homes. According to Dennis, "40 years ago the area was all small farms, but through the years they just keep getting bought out, developed and broken up. You can't afford them."

The effects of fading industry can be felt throughout the state. Newport, located five miles from the Canadian Border in Orleans County, has one of Vermont's highest unemployment rates. Through the 1950s, Newport was a thriving town with industry and a railroad. But in 1965 the last passenger train left Newport, and the town's economy seems to have gone with it. Tourism associated with Jay Peak remains one of the only forms of employment. While the state and several businesses have made attempts to revive the city, the majority of ventures have failed. Two companies (Vermont Teddy Bear, Columbia Forest Products) representing nearly 150 jobs closed in the last two years. The state also hoped that the extension of Interstate 91 would boost industry, but more than 30 years after its completion the project has spawned little growth.

Just outside of Newport, I stopped at a sign reading Carl and Pam's Coun-

try Emporium. The store was shuttered but the owner still lives in the adjacent building.

"Years ago, all of these were farms, all up and down here. They're all closed, they're all gone," Carl said.

He then told me that at one point the store was quite large since it served as a supply source for small farms in the area. But the switch to large commercial dairy farming hit Orleans County hard, especially the younger generation. Only seven percent of the county is between the ages 18-24.

"Unless you have something, a business that carries you out of the area, there's really not much here for young families," said Carl. "There's nothing for the kids to do when they graduate, so they've left. We had five children, they're all gone."

Unfortunately, there doesn't appear to be any quick fix to the state's economic woes. Its residents continue to age, tourism continues to be the largest source of revenue, and Vermont remains a destination for second home ownership and retirement. While towns like Stowe, Killington, Waterbury, and Middlebury maintain a façade of small town perfection, they hide the state's endemic issues. They mask the harsh reality of Vermont's economy, serving visitors a distraction from the rural poverty that plagues the state.

LOCAL LOWDOWN

24

ANNIE

We know that the "sun will come out tomorrow" since the weather is finally nice, so the walk to the Town Hall Theater to see the Middlebury Community Players present Annie won't be hard! There will be additional shows through April 1. Tickets are \$20 and available at the THT box office, 802-382-9222 or www.townhall-theater.org.

MAR. 22, 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.

HUNGER GAMES RELEASE PARTY

The Ilsley Library will be hosting a release party for the movie that we've all been waiting for before it opens at the Marquis Theater. There will be book trivia, survival games (hopefully not like in the books) and a reaping (this is sounding a little morbid). "Happy Hunger Games! And, may the odds be in your favor" — such a powerful line. For more information, call 802-388-4097.

MAR. 23, 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.

MAPLE MAGIC IN BRISTOL

Love all things maple? In downtown Bristol there will be their annual celebration of everything that has to do with maple trees. Local businesses that display a "Maple Stop" sign will offer free maple treats. Sponsored by the Bristol Downtown Community Partnership.

MAR. 24, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

VERMONT MAPLE OPEN HOUSE

Head to Bread Loaf View Farm in Cornwall for a weekend of maple syrup goodness during their open house weekend. A group of local sugarhouses will be participating, offering tours and the chance to collect sap. There will be a pancake breakfast on March 24, but the events continue all weekend. Donations are requested to benefit HOPE, the local food pantry. Bread Loaf View Farm is located at 468 Cider Mill Road.

MAR. 24-25

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

The senior class at Middlebury Union High School presents "Fiddler on the Roof." For \$10 that benefit Project Graduation, enjoy the musical tale of Tevye and his daughters as he tries to protect his family and his Jewish traditions. For tickets, call 802-382-1192.

MAR. 23, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

WOODS TEA CO. FAREWELL CONCERT

The Woods Tea Co., a local band that plays an assortment of Celtic music, novelty songs and French-Canadian and American folk songs, are having their last concert after nearly 30 years together. The farewell concert is at the Paramount Theater in Rutland. Tickets are \$20, and the proceeds will benefit the Friends of Brandon Town Hall.

MAR. 30, 8 P.M.-10 P.M.

Finding a space for student art

The EDITORIAL

represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the editorial board.

If you were at Middlebury before this summer's renovation of Forest Hall, you can probably recall a Friday or Saturday night when, while making your way back to the comfort of your dorm, you decided to stop and check out what sounded like some sort of rave emanating from the basement of the centrally located residence hall. You may also recall, after arriving at this late night dance party, that the walls were painted with an array of designs and artwork that — despite the strobe light and pulsating speakers — managed to catch your eye. If Lower Forest — LoFo, to most — became a regular or even occasional weekend destination for you, you may also recall that the walls almost never looked the same as they did the last time you were there.

Such was the nature of the space — it was a College-sanctioned “changing art space,” which featured constantly evolving student artwork.

This summer, LoFo was renovated right along with the rest of the building as it entered the 21st century with keypads and ceiling lights. Along with its physical renovations, however, the nature and purpose of LoFo were also altered, irking some students who had come to feel a connection with the space. In the past several months, there have been repeated attempts to reclaim LoFo as a space for student art — instances of anonymous and unsanctioned artwork appearing on LoFo walls — all of which have been treated by the administration and facilities as vandalism and been promptly removed or painted over (see article on page 1).

Such is a common dilemma on residential campuses such as ours: what to do when a space has been defined differently by the students — who reside in the space — and the administration — which actually owns the

space. While we cannot fault the administration for exacting control over a space that they have paid to build, renovate and maintain, it is nonetheless disappointing that this clearly well-used and much loved arena for artistic creativity was usurped without any kind of conversation. Similarly, while we can sympathize with the “guerilla artists” of sorts who have been attempting to reclaim the space in recent months, it doesn't seem reasonable to expect the administration to respond positively to such tactics, especially when these students refuse to first petition for change openly and honestly.

The forum scheduled for April 4 to discuss this issue in a transparent manner is, clearly, the best way to arrive at a reasonable solution to this conundrum. At the *Campus*, we see tremendous value in having spaces such as LoFo where students can let their creativity flow and leave their mark on a space that means something to them. We hope that, given a chance to speak face-to-face, proponents

of the LoFo art space will impress upon the administration the role that such spaces play in fostering community, promoting creativity and providing contrast to the often clean-cut nature of the Middlebury experience. There is a clear mandate for this type of space on campus — whether it is under Forest or elsewhere, we urge the administration to let students take an active role in defining and controlling this space.

By the same token, we urge those students who are passionate about reclaiming LoFo as a changing art space not to resort to vandalism of the space — or any other space on campus — in order to be heard. It seems prudent to first seek change through legitimate channels, rather than resorting to extralegal means that cost our Facilities Services staff members time and money. The cost of vandalism is significant, and the entire student body splits the bill. The cost of your patience is low, and will result in an administration much more willing to allow the type of space that you are clamoring for to exist once again.

The Middlebury Campus

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How to use the Internet

Why do you use Facebook? Because it allows you to interact with others and there is a perpetual stream of new content. The same goes for Twitter, Pinterest and just about any online start-up that has a chance of making it big. Our online culture is changing at a break-neck pace and is becoming increasingly influential in the process. WikiLeaks and Anonymous aside, the power of individual people to create conversation has never been greater, nor more necessary. We saw Twitter icons turn green in support of the Iranian elections in 2009 and Facebook feeds become inundated with KONY 2012 videos (and

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Emily Singer '14 is a news editor from Harrison, N.Y.

subsequent news of Invisible Children founder's public masturbation and break-down). We are a generation that shares viral videos, signs online petitions and divulges more information online than would have ever been considered socially acceptable two decades ago. Some of the greatest and most powerful tools are a mere hyperlink away, but do you know how to use them?

Internet literacy is becoming more of a necessity and less of a hobby or talent. And no, keeping up with the latest memes doesn't cut it. Founded by Jonah Peretti in 2006, BuzzFeed is at the forefront of online social media. What began as an experiment in tracking viral content has exploded into something far more influential. We know that “Charlie Bit My Finger” has been viewed well over 100 million times and that “Call Me Maybe” blew up overnight (and still hasn't settled down), but do you know why? BuzzFeed

does. They have created an algorithm, a legitimate algebraic equation, to predict and track viral content. Are there cats? What about politicians being incoherent? People falling over? The chances of content going viral are instantly greater. Simply put, BuzzFeed will tell you what everyone else will be talking about, laughing at or quoting days in advance.

The site has recently begun to put its knowledge of the inner workings of viral media toward online journalism, poaching big-name journo Ben Smith, Doree Shafrir and Amy Odell to reap the rewards and traffic of Peretti's cutting-edge content. Most internet news sites rely on Search Engine Optimization (SEO) to promote content. Simply put, SEO is all about cheating Google's search algorithm to make a news story appear at the top of a search page.

It's about the frequency with which certain words are used and strategic word choice. Did you know that when people are looking to Google the Olsen twins, “Ashley Olsen” is searched almost twice as much as “Mary-Kate Olsen”? Effective SEO would omit MK from a headline or hyperlink and put Ash at the forefront. SEO works to a certain extent, as do slanderous, shock headlines (I'm looking at you, Gawker), but that doesn't guarantee that people will read, enjoy and share content.

This mystery of how to create and promote content in a way that will make people read it, share it and talk about it is exactly what BuzzFeed aims to solve. They are singlehandedly changing the way the Internet works, all because Peretti and his colleagues are wholly dedicated to discovering the “how” and “why” of the online world.

In early January, I became one of hundreds of thousands of people to sign up for Codecademy, a free

online tutorial that teaches users to write Javascript. Aware of the growing necessity of Internet literacy, the brains behind Codecademy dubbed 2012 “Code Year,” setting out to get as many people as possible to make learning to code a new year's resolution. I stuck with Codecademy for about a week before the lessons became too challenging for my humanities-wired brain, but realized in the process that it is possible for anyone and everyone to create a website, iPhone app or computer game. All you need is an idea.

A number of schools across the country have discussed enstating mandatory computer literacy courses to ensure that students stay on top of the latest technologies, acknowledging the growing necessity for computer skills in virtually all spheres of post-grad life.

I'm not suggesting that Middlebury add a computer science distribution requirement, but I am suggesting that students take interest in the power and influence of the online world. What JusTalks, what EdLiberty, what Twitter, what Facebook aim to do is foster conversation, pure and simple. It doesn't have to be the least bit intellectual — talk about the pros and cons of Proctor carrot cake, Enrique Iglesias's most profound song lyrics or the ideal time to hit the fitness center. Or, talk about Internet firewalls in China and the superiority of the Finnish school system. Just talk. Engage with people you otherwise wouldn't speak to, whose opinions you otherwise wouldn't hear.

The Internet exists for us to take advantage of and for us to take control of. Do what you want with it, but use it to its full potential. Or then again, don't. After all, everything I've just said will probably be outdated in a matter of months.



OF MOUTHS AND MONEY

The informational meeting about Middlebury's endowment last week might have been more at home in a government intelligence agency than a liberal arts institution; non-answers and obfuscation ruled the afternoon. At one point, Investure "client relations" analyst and apparent sacrificial lamb Oliver Platts-Mills, clearly frustrated by the unexpected hostility sweeping through the packed auditorium assured the group of concerned students that

APPLY LIBERALLY

Zach Dallmeyer-Drennen '13.5 is from Canandaigua, N.Y.

"if there's a company out there right now that you think is a good company, we own it." Later, he defended himself by informing the bemused crowd that we'd all be super impressed with the companies in the endowment, if only he could tell us what they were. Next time I'm in a job interview or on a date, I think I'll try a similar line and see how well it goes over.

Platts-Mills's intransigence certainly made our endowment sound mysterious, and that's clearly unacceptable to the students who chose to attend Middlebury, pay tuition to Middlebury, and hope to one day donate ridiculous sums of money to Middlebury. I don't suggest that we move our endowment or abandon the relationship with Investure that netted an 18 percent return on our money last year; Middlebury is clearly quite well-endowed.

The idea that we could switch all of our \$800 million to "Socially Responsible" investments raises a number of practical concerns. I'm sure most students here would support investment in a corporation that devotes over a billion dollars a year to developing solar and wind technology, or to a company spending over \$600 million developing algae as a replacement for fossil fuels, or to the corporation that runs a government lab that researches alternative energy, global warming and hydrogen power. The problem is that these three examples refer to BP, Exxon and Lockheed Martin, firms which many would consider the height of corporate evil. How, exactly, do we define a "Socially Responsible" company? Most

successful corporations, from these examples to Apple or Google, have their plusses and minuses. But the intricacies of the market do not mean we don't deserve more information. A Middlebury education is an extremely expensive product. Just like the food we eat and the textbooks we study from, we deserve to know the ingredients of our wealth.

I'm not sure why exactly the administration or Investure agreed to the meeting, since they seemed determined to provide little to no information about these ingredients. Perhaps at the next such meeting they'll trot out an actual dog and pony in service of their agenda. Investure claims that they can't give Middlebury students more information because of SEC oversight and danger to their bottom line. Both of these concerns are understandable, but there needs to be a way to give students a better idea of the financial interests of this institution. At the end of the meeting, I stood up to ask Platts-Mills a question. I wanted to know if there was any possible compromise; if we could, for example, see a list of Middlebury's holdings from three years ago. It's hard to imagine that this could jeopardize Investure's business. In typical fashion for the meeting, the analyst demurred: "I just don't know what you'd do with such a list."

I'd love to read that list, Oliver. I'd like to see the name of every company and every fund that Middlebury's money supported in the past, even if the law and markets prevent us from releasing our current holdings. And I know that I am not the only one. Maybe that list wouldn't tell us anything we didn't already know. Maybe the list would make us proud of Middlebury and proud of where our money has gone. But maybe there would be some companies that Middlebury students would broadly agree are not acceptable. We have that right. And if you don't agree, then we have the right to demand that the company that manages our money respects our shareholder rights better than Investure does. Either way, we need more information to begin a deeper conversation about what we value more as a community — a high return to investment, responsible sources of income — or whether those two goals must remain mutually exclusive.

"The Campus Cruiser"

I can see quite a lot from my energy efficient, ivory road bike. I can see lights left on, I can see dishes left out and thrown away and I can see doors and windows left open in the winter. This is a ridiculous, abject waste. Why don't we just burn the money? Or better yet, why don't we conserve and give the money we would have spent to financial aid or the concerts committee? (Oh Ethan, you're so naïve.) While I know it's hard to expect students to be thrifty about collective, vague expenses like power, heat, dishes and printer paper, I imagined that students might be thrifty about consumption when paying directly, either from their shallow pockets of hard-earned cash — maybe considering 12 dollars as an hour of work — or from future inheritance. Well, that is until I saw a Range Rover drive 200 meters.

There are a lot of "Campus Cruisers" around Middlebury these days, riding dirty with the caps tipped low, blasting the beatz loud, looking like bullies from a '90s high school movie. Well, maybe I've imagined part of that, but certainly there are quite a lot of intra-campus jaunts in the car. This makes no sense to me. Parking is annoying, gas costs a gazillion dollars and Public Safety loves to make it rain tickets. On my high bicycle-horse I don't have to park in a parking lot, I take short cuts, I don't slow down for speed bumps and I usually beat cars to the destination, door to door. I also get killer thighs.

But what I especially don't understand is why the Range Rover drove those 200 meters to the athletic center, ostensibly to engage in athletic activity. While as a "varsity athlete" (did I just really say that?) I am sensitive of the energy it takes to participate in practice, I have a gut feeling that one could conceivably make it back to Proctor or Ross without any automotive assistance. And something just baffles me about driving over to spin or run, like taking an elevator to use the Stairmaster. Rumor even has it that when alumnus and mountaineer Britton Keeshan '04 — who was, at one point, the youngest person to climb the highest

peak in every continent — matriculated here, he asked permission to get a Van Wilder-style golf cart. Gotta love the kid's audacity.

Sometimes I see a Campus Cruiser in a Prius. And when I do, I am often treated to fantastic internal discussions on topics like the etymology of the word hypocrite or when it got fashionable to be green. Or if there's any GREEN green Priuses or just forest green? That is, unless it happens to be raining or snowing or really cold, in which case instead of a fantastic discussion, I am instead treated to a fantastic warm and dry ride in one of humankind's finest inventions, which enlarged our world and made our lives efficient.

Here perhaps is the "Obama (read: teaching) moment" which I've stumbled upon, aside from the "don'ts" of conservation. We are all hypocrites, because we all keep two sets of books in one way or another. I like the Earth, but there is a point apparently where theory and practice diverge, when I hitch a ride to the dining hall or turn up the heat. I also love hip-hop, but at the same time I condemn misogyny. But people can get very annoyed when someone preaches Prius from a McMansion.

At Middlebury, we have many students biting the hands that feed them, calling for social justice and ethical investing when perhaps the money keeping them fed and clothed may have a few stains from an unscrupulous past. Apparently, it's impossible to walk the walk and talk the talk to the hilt. But I'm glad we at least sort of try. I think it is good and noble that we say we value environmentalism here, even if we do drive around and leave lights on more than we should, because using "tu quoque" as an argument is fallacious. Any inconvenient truths in Al Gore's documentary were not rendered void because he has a giant house.

THE MIDDLEBURY MINT

Ethan Mann '12 is from Norwich, Vt.

Conversation without silencing others

Last week, I attended the Chellis House-sponsored panel discussion of the current state of reproductive rights in the U.S. Andy Hyatt '12 discussed the issues in light of his conservative beliefs. To be honest, I did not agree with most of what Andy was saying, nor did his points serve to change my view that women, and not the state, are entitled to make fundamental choices about their own bodies. However, I was struck by the *way* in which Andy argued his points. He seemed willing to have a levelheaded conversation in which he effectively explained his beliefs while also accepting the validity of counter-arguments.

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Carina Guiterman '13 is an opinions editor from Bethesda, Md.

I think many Middlebury students can learn a lesson from Andy. When I see the passion that students here have for issues such as the Affordable Care Act and, on a smaller scale, for Middlebury's endowment and the need for a student art space, I realize how proud I am to be here. Middlebury students show that we are clearly not the "apathetic" generation we are so often labeled.

Many progressive students on campus often call for "more conversation." However, these students must realize that a conversation must be a respectful *dialogue*. Simply agreeing with one "right" view while showing intolerance for the opinions of others is not a conversation; it is an echo chamber. Last week's well-attended endowment meeting provided an excellent opportunity for genuine conversation. The Investure representative's failure to disclose where the endowment money is going severely hindered constructive conversation; yet some students might have been at fault as well. Many students went into the meeting with no plans of truly engaging in a dialogue,

but went instead to share their pre-formed views and obstruct the conversation. To be activists who actually effect change, students must engage with others and must be able to articulate their beliefs carefully and thoughtfully. In my opinion, this would be a more effective tactic than throwing cookies at people. Most Middlebury students have liberal views that are shared with the majority of students that they interact with here. For this reason, many students don't feel the need to explain their rationales or argue their views; there is rarely a need to, as the majority of students fundamentally agree on basic issues.

Simply agreeing with one "right" view while showing intolerance for the opinions of others is not a conversation; it is an echo chamber.

But Middlebury is hardly indicative of the U.S. population as a whole. In the "real world," we will undoubtedly face people with opposing views, and we will need to be able to both *explain* why we hold our opinions and listen to those with different beliefs. As college is supposed to prepare us for the "real world," it is important that Middlebury students start fostering these skills now. We go to one of the best schools in the country, but this does not mean that we are all-knowing or that people with whom we disagree know nothing. While I agree with many of the progressive values espoused by passionate students, it must be clear that being progressive entails tolerance and openness to the possibility that one's views may be wrong.

I'm not trying to say that activism should only be

carried out through institutional channels. If we didn't embrace the power of protest and radical activism, than the U.S. would be in a decidedly more grim place than it is today. Middlebury students should embrace activism but must also see the merits of institutionally-channeled activism. Many members of the administration hold office hours in order to gauge student opinion. Events such as the endowment meeting and alcohol task force forums provide students with opportunities to share their beliefs. If these institutionalized channels of student involvement fail, then, by all means, students should find other ways to make their views heard. But asking convoluted and somewhat rhetorical questions — or throwing cookies — is neither serious nor effective.

Andy's argument also impressed me because it was refreshingly void of empty rhetoric and attempts at sensationalism. Too often I hear Middlebury students complain about "the Institution" or "the Administration." These students make general statements such as "Middlebury doesn't foster community" or "Middlebury is hetero-normative, homophobic, hegemonic, classist, racist, etc."

I applaud these students for speaking up, and I believe that much of what they say is true. Yet instead of merely using Middlebury's problems as a venue in which to use Middlebury-learned rhetorical labels, students should argue their beliefs logically and with specific examples and suggest tangible solutions. Conversations may serve as practical solutions, but only if students foster constructive dialogue. I am truly proud of the activists among the Middlebury population. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." A Middlebury without these passionate students would not be an institution I would be proud to attend. But we should neither be silent nor try to silence others.

College's endowment as a private investment

Last week I was the victim of a sudden and violent attack that I characterize as a well-intentioned but severely misguided cookie assault. Concerned students in the Socially Responsible Investment Club stood outside Atwater, hocking cookies in exchange for "real information" concerning where Investure, the firm responsible for investing Middlebury's endowment, has stashed our

READER OP-ED

Will Peckham '14 is from Vero Beach, Fla.

approximately \$850 million. Supposed locations included "Big Oil" and the "Military-Industrial Complex," with apparently dire consequences for our image and collective conscience. While their intentions were probably admirable, I find my complaints with their presentation twofold.

To honestly improve a social situation deemed imperfect, concerned students should have a deep knowledge of the specific issue at hand and concrete alternative avenues to pursue; these alternatives should be carried out until a better solution exists. Too often, social issues on our campus flare up and intensify, only to disappear when the next travesty comes around the bend. My first complaint, as such, simply results from the pattern at Middlebury where inspired student involvement is carried out in surprisingly naive demonstrations that do not reflect our status as impactful members of a national community very well.

The following argument reflects my viewpoint that the investment of a given college or university's endowment, in order to assume profitability and therefore benefit the students of the college (and the longevity of the

institution) the most, cannot be treated any differently than a private investment, despite Middlebury's attempts at social responsibility in other College interests. In other words, there is no stopgap investment solution to placate a minority of students who take offense at a suboptimal social situation.

My second issue with the events of the past week regarding the endowment investment is the subject matter which these students attack. The SRIC, in the words of member Nathan Arnosti '13, fear that the endowment could be invested in large oil companies as well as defense firms and weapons manufacturers contracted by the government. Students interviewed by the SRI proposed that the endowment should instead seek companies in the green technology sector, as well as firms that would further social goals such as those that boast female leadership. We admittedly don't know what Investure primarily targets in their investments, but let's assume the "worst" for argument's sake.

The term "military-industrial complex" arose as a representation of Cold War fear as described by President Eisenhower in his farewell address. While the industry undoubtedly benefits from its political influence today, it is hardly alone in that respect. Despite its negative image among some students, investment in contracted defense firms makes great sense. On a practical level, investing in an innovative sector heavily stimulated by government spending while the country wages a unique war presents relatively easy pickings to savvy investors (See Northrop Grumman's 2001-2008 performance). More abstractly, while government historically does not innovate as well as the private sector, firms funded by the Pentagon

and NASA have been credited with the proprietary technologies that precede the eventual arrival of commercial products such as satellite television, GPS navigation systems and even commercial airliners. Freed from the chains of short run profit concerns, these firms conduct R&D that spills over into the private sector, benefitting our economy as a whole by increasing our national wealth.

Investing in the budding-yet-booming green technology and clean energy sector sounds ideal, but its practical execution proves problematic. Barring world-changing developments in the location or extraction of oil reserves, the clean energy sector will prove to be stable and profitable in the long run. In the short run, however, this industry is hard to predict and extraordinarily volatile. A difficulty in predicting the role and magnitude of government subsidies directed at cleantech domestically and abroad introduces political uncertainty over and above the intrinsic uncertainty of the market, occasionally causing well-publicized upheavals. In the past year alone, several high-profile projects funded heavily by the Obama administration have gone belly up due to inability to price competitively on the world market once subsidies dry up, swallowing private funding and government grants alike. As an aside, in the event of an oil supply shock (vaguely likely in our lifetimes), "Big Oil" would likely be first to reveal previously suppressed but price-competitive and scalable clean energy technologies, not the gleaming start-ups commonly pointed at as reasonable alternatives.

The takeaway from this argument is to invest in firms if they have proven successful (profitable) and also boast positive social externalities like clean

energy or innovative leadership. However, it would be a terrible error to think that firms will be successful simply because of these attributes. In fact, \$4 million (the amount in Investure's Sustainable Investments Initiative) invested in "sustainable companies" out of approximately \$850 million is a great start if students truly care about making responsible investments while simultaneously benefitting the school and its future generations of students.

For Middlebury College to sustain its present level of educational and institutional innovation and provision for its students, the endowment must indeed be sustainably invested. However, sustainability in this sense means that the global market must reflect the decisions of the professionals at Investure as reasonably accurate predictions of the macroeconomy. Any satisfaction students gain from the endowment's positive interest being earned through respectable means should be viewed as a satisfying bonus to the benefits they reap from attending a school that is able to improve because of a continuously profitably invested endowment.

At the end of the day, students must be willing to accept that market valuation and social valuation are two completely different things; unfortunately profitability and social benefit boast no explicit link in our economy. These valuations are in disagreement more often than not, but when they do simultaneously occur, an opportunity for responsible investment should never be overlooked, by Investure or anybody else. So until the magnitude of "responsibly" profitable investment opportunities increases significantly, we should happily accept the choices made by those that know the industry the best.

week in tweets



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do you think ill get noticeably tanner on my walk from axinn to bihall? #springexistentialquestions



middtwitt middtwitt
pretty sure my crush didn't text me back because his spanish project group is holding him hostage



middtwitt middtwitt
pretty sure my crush didn't text me back because he just finally got gastro ... right?



middtwitt middtwitt
where the f'ck is middlebury's central quad where i can dramatically lounge quasi-naked?



middtwitt middtwitt
pretty sure i get more ass in the atwater lunch line than i did this weekend



middtwitt middtwitt
only four more hours of sunlight for a new prof pic!



middtwitt middtwitt
will i ever build up the courage to spend \$6 on sushi from middxpress???



middtwitt middtwitt
WHERE CAN I FIND THE INEVITABLE JUNIOR BOY DARTY?

A response to Andrea Tantaros

This past week, Middlebury's College Republicans invited Fox News correspondent Andrea Tantaros to speak on campus. Her purported aim was to discuss the role of the media in the 2012 elections. In reality, she spent the majority of her lecture citing anecdotal, narrow stories as evidence, resulting in the reverse of her intended effect. Rather than revealing liberal media bias, she exposed her own slant by ignoring and misrepresenting facts. Her quality as a speaker notwithstanding, it was actually her less cogent asides that I found infuriating. And judging by the slack jaws of some of my peers, I knew my frustration was shared.

Ms. Tantaros said a few things that effectively rendered her credibility, in my eyes at least, null and void. I won't bother to further discuss her assertion that we live in a post-racial America, with President Obama as evidence, considering that almost one in five voters in the Republican Party's primary polled last week think that interracial marriage should be illegal, according to Public Policy Polling.

Rather, it was her discussion of women's equality and birth control that angered and offended me along with other feminists in the room, male and female. After telling us that men and women were simply not equal and that "all the men in the room [knew] it," she then proceeded to discuss women's health issues in deceptive terms. At best, she was misinformed. But I suspect she was rather distorting the facts to back up her conservative politics.

The three most salient facts she seemed to have forgotten in her diatribe revolved around responsibility and use of contraception. She seemed to have forgotten that most insurance plans in this country are, indeed, private. So no, as a taxpayer, she would not be funding my birth control. It appeared as though she also neglected the fact that men are indeed half the equation of baby-making (heterosexual) sex. While I don't understand the instinct to tell women

that you better be willing to cough up nine dollars a month (many co-pays are far more expensive by the way, if covered at all) if you want to have sex, such a statement puts the responsibility of sex wholly on the woman.

She also seemed to have forgotten that many women take birth control for non-sex related reasons. It is often prescribed for women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), for women whose menstrual cycles are irregular or for those who experience such painful menstrual periods that they are unable to go to class or work. But yes, many women take birth control pills for, well, birth control. But even more women probably take it for the combination of medical and reproductive benefits.

I would like to think that Andrea Tantaros is special in her views, that she holds individually terrible ideas and espouses them to her wide audience. However, this is simply not the case, and the hijacking of women's health by the right has become so commonplace that this op-ed isn't even special anymore. I can point to Joanna Rothkopf's excellent weekly column and two other op-eds in our paper just last week discussing birth control and the legislative battle surrounding it. It's getting ridiculous. It's getting disgustingly distorted and dangerous for women's health. I want to know when we returned to the 1950s.

Birth control, no matter its form, is preventative care. Preventative care is cheaper — and better — for everyone. And until sex is illegal, it should not be reserved for the rich. By not considering birth control preventative care, we are simply sustaining a status quo, one that neither stems the rate of unintended pregnancies by those women who cannot afford birth control, nor works to alleviate an already overburdened healthcare system.

READER OP-ED

Samantha Kaufman '12.5 is from Boston, Mass.

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

A closer look at Middlebury's system of advising

By
Michelle
Smoler

these occurrences have decreased since the implementation of the audit sheet.

One method for encouraging greater frequency of interaction has been through requiring students to get PIN numbers from their advisers to register for classes, the hope being that a certain level of forced interaction will stimulate the kinds of important conversations that develop the basis for a relation-

consistent and regulated advising, Lindholm describes

major academic advising simply as, "students get the advising they deserve." This notion characterizes a shift in goals from the administrative standpoint as well as an understanding of what it means to be an adviser.

"I think a great system of advising involves assertiveness on the part of faculty and students," said Dean of Faculty Jim Ralph. "Students need to take ownership of their academic education — it's important for them to be informed and reach out to the faculty. Faculty need to be informed and receptive to seeing students."

Where first-year seminar advising focuses on preparing students for their next four years, academic advising from sophomore year on is about providing a safety net, a sounding board, an opportunity for students to access information and expertise should they need it.

In terms of serving the College's interests, the specific purpose of academic advising is to ensure that a student is able to graduate on time. By requiring an academic adviser, the College provides students with a faculty member in their given major department who is responsible for completing an audit sheet that affirms a student's ability to complete their major and graduate on time. Lindholm less than subtly expressed his belief in the necessity of this process when he asked rhetorically "Do you think it would work if nobody had to have an adviser? Do you think students would complete their majors in a responsible way?"

Lindholm has good reason for taking this stance. In the past some students failed to complete their major requirements on time due to a lack of academic supervision of class selection, an oversight that arose several times during Lindholm's tenure as Dean of Advising. However,

given faculty member, even expanded to include staff members — sports coaches, admissions officers, etc.

Eventually this ineffective program was disassembled in favor of what Lindholm deemed the "overwhelmingly successful" First-Year Seminar Program. This program, now in its 24th year, embodies a portion of Middlebury's advising institution intended to help introduce new students to the opportunities and rigors of college life. It is considered by most to be the best in what Middlebury offers in terms of advising. The program's methodology, in terms of hands-on guidance, is relatively structured, with a clear goal on the part of the administration: to make successful high school students into successful college students. The process consists of introducing new students to the ample resources Middlebury has to offer — which Skubikowski refers to as "almost embarrassing" in their richness — and teaching them how to approach life at college in a balanced manner.

The adviser-advisee relationship is never more integrated with the teacher-student relationship than through first-year seminar advising.

"[It is a] very clear consistent relationship ... you were meeting with that person if not one-on-one at least three hours a week," said Lindholm, a strong proponent of the First-Year Seminar program. "In terms of having meaningful contact with your academic adviser in an area of significant connection."

However, this system of instruction and guidance, characterized by effective and active faculty and administrative involvement, morphs into something entirely different in students' sophomore and junior years.

Whereas first-year students experience relatively

small classes, engaged professors and a close-knit community — these are some of the reasons that students come to a small liberal arts college. On this list of educational mechanisms and institutions that foster an intimate and interconnected environment is faculty advising.

Among colleges and universities the style of the advising institution varies. Some divide students by year and assign them to certain advisers or hire professional advisers, in the similar vein of high school guidance counselors, who advise students based on an alphabetical breakdown of names. While these are effective in their own right, Middlebury's faculty, staff and administrators believe that in a liberal arts environment, teaching and learning are perpetual and should not end outside of class.

"I like the spirit of this [system]," said Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Research Kathy Skubikowski. "I like that as faculty part of our teaching is advising — we're teaching in the classroom, outside the classroom. It's a residential liberal arts environment. I've had editing sessions in Shaw's over the tomatoes."

In many ways Middlebury's advising system is innovative and successful, evolving throughout the years with the College's changing environment.

"I was here in 1963 and I had a [first-year] adviser who was just a name on a page — he was not in a department I had any interest in taking a course in," said Emeritus Dean of Advising Karl Lindholm.

This system of randomly assigning advisers continued into the 1970s and, in the interest of lowering the number of advisees assigned to a

them — that's going against the spirit of that."

The College has discussed the possibility of expanding the PIN numbers to juniors and seniors so as to perpetuate these semi-regular conversations — "coming through the door," as Skubikowski describes it — throughout a student's college career. Ralph however explained how many have historically been less enthusiastic about this method.

"We went away from that because it was felt [to be] somewhat laborious and [as] a response in part to students thinking this was just one more step and [asking] is it necessary."

In those days he was wiser than he is now. He used to frequently take my advice.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Wise men don't need advice. Fools won't take it.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

ship.

Skubikowski acknowledged that this is not a fool-proof method, emphasizing that regardless of the College's stance on perpetuating a relaxed system of advising, any kind of required structure is near impossible to enforce.

"If you have to [see your adviser] for a PIN, of course you can circumvent it but you can circumvent any system. There are stories where people put the PINs on their door and students can just get

Despite the College's policy of encouragement over enforcement, Skubikowski and Ralph do not seek to undermine the importance of these required meetings in their capacity as both check-ins to verify that students are taking responsibility for their education and as a basis for creating adviser-advisee relationships distinct from registration. Ralph indicated that many faculty members choose to engage more deeply in the latter aspect of

inst the advising relationship by acting as "mentors."

ssed "It's very nice if that relationship turns into [something] broader — advisers asking advisees 'what are you hoping to accomplish, what are you going to do with this education?'" said Ralph. "Those are big questions. They are not specific, they are not discreet, but

en- I think they are helpful in shaping the greater consciousness on the part of students, the pur-

ewas s now; uently

vice. STONCHURCHILL

ools ke it. MIN FRANKLIN

no one wants advice - only corroboration.

JOHN STEINBECK

age-Sku- not por- meet- both stu- sibil- and as r-iser- tinct indi- nem- more ct of

However, Ralph stated that due to faculty members' different views on the role of advising he was unwilling to urge any such "mentoring" as a necessary aspect of a faculty member's position as adviser.

"Some people think that it would be great for that ad-

vising role to move toward a mentoring role," said Ralph, citing a recent faculty forum on advising. "Some others said, 'I don't necessarily feel comfortable in that role.'"

Lindholm too was less than concerned with the idea of the College instituting any sort of overly personal "mentoring" relationship.

sonal conversations that students may not be interested in having.

"I do get concerned about compelling or coercing people into conversations they aren't wanting to have," said Ralph. "Should the institution be forcing the student to have that kind of conversation?"

expressed great skepticism in assigning blame to faculty members in the occasion of complaints of poor academic advising.

"I always bristled when advising got low ranks across the board. I always wanted to say to the students who gave their adviser a low rank — how much of an opportunity did you give your adviser to be a good adviser?" he said.

Faculty members too do not necessarily see it as their responsibility to initiate the conversation with their academic advisees after freshman year.

"With the exception of first-year students, who need additional guidance, it really should be the responsibility of the student to make good use of their advisers," wrote Leng Professor of International Politics Allison Stanger in an email.

However, placing a greater emphasis on personal accountability over compulsory oversight is not without its relative drawbacks.

"At the moment our weakness is the sophomore year, which is something we want to do more with," said Ralph. "We have individual students moving to new majors; their first-year seminar advisers are still their advisers but they may have migrated already intellectually to another place."

In addition, the College acknowledges the "inevitable" structural issues relating to department size that can serve to limit students' uniform access to high-quality advising. Unavoidably, professors in larger departments such as Economics, English and American Literatures and Political Science have far more advisees per professor than the smaller departments. This explains a not uncommon grievance among students in these departments who have experienced greater difficulty accessing professors. Stanger alone, for example, at any given time has 15 to 30 advisees whereas the Classics department, comprising five professors, has in its entirety a total of five majors.

However, the College does not see a reason that these structural inequalities should inhibit successful advising. Lindholm stated that faculty should be realistic about their number of advisees rather than take on students when they are not capable of dedicating the time. Once again, students are by and large ascribed the responsibility of utilizing faculty resources. Stressing the

value of a small liberal arts community, Lindholm stated that students have access to many faculty and staff members that can serve as informal advisers in the event that a student is dissatisfied or unable to get in touch with their current adviser.

"You're a free agent ... don't tell me your adviser is no good if you never go to see him," said Lindholm. "I could answer my own question by saying 'the adviser didn't show me enough warmth to make me want to see him.' And then I[d] say, 'did you have other faculty members that serve that role?' It's a circular argument."

Ralph took a slightly different stance, acknowledging the value of informal advisers but not seeming to think that they should ever act as a substitute for academic advising or that students should be placed in a situation where that is their only outlet.

"I think that's great [that] we have a lot of faculty that like interacting with students — offering perspectives, acting as sounding boards," said Ralph, "but there seems to be the need for a kind of basis along the lines of academic advising ... I don't want to just restrict advising to the academic faculty but recognize that they have an important role to play."

However, Ralph did express the necessity for students to take advantage of the CTLR resources to facilitate effective conversations in the case that a professor has only a limited amount of available time for discussion.

While the College has expressed overall satisfaction with advising, discussions of improvement are not entirely unwarranted. According to Vice President of Planning and Assessment and Professor of Psychology Susan Campbell Baldrige, while student feedback on advising is generally good, it does not compare to Middlebury's results in other sectors.

"The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) asks students to evaluate 'the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution.' For both first year and senior students at Middlebury, between 81 and 85 percent of students have rated the advising they have received as either good or excellent the last two times we participated in the survey," said Baldrige. "While these numbers are generally quite positive, Middlebury students' ratings of their 'entire educational experience at this institution' are even more positive: 98 percent of first-years and seniors rated their experience at Middlebury as good or excellent."

A word to the wise ain't necessary - it's the stupid ones that need the advice.

BILL COSBY

Most people who ask for advice from others have already resolved to act as it pleases them.

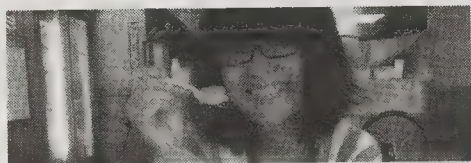
KHALIL GIBRAN

With this perspective, the administration has shied away from relating issues of advising inadequacy to lack of faculty participation, asserting, "Students who need advising get it," Lindholm said. Skubikowski and Ralph expressed that while some choose to do so, it is not necessarily the responsibility of the faculty to "reach out," citing designated office hours as an example of faculty participation in the advising relationship. Lindholm in particular

"I'm not that close with my faculty adviser.' Well c'est-la-vie," he said.

Ralph expressed equal unease with the College playing a part in imposing per-

TASTE CHEESE WITH CHOPSTICKS



BY JIAYI ZHU

The summer before I came to Middlebury and started college, I was visiting some elders in my family around China. When they knew that I would leave for the U.S. to attend college, they all seriously gave me the same piece of advice: "Please remember the best Chinese virtue of filial piety and never lose it, because we've heard that U.S. people just throw their parents into nursing homes. It's horrible and conscienceless!" I'd also heard of another rumor that college students have to pay their own tuition through part time jobs and debt. I thought, "No wonder they don't like their parents." My perception of the U.S. society at that point was like a place full of selfish and unthankful people: parents don't support their children for college and children will abandon their parents when they grow older.

Indeed, filial piety is not a concept that is stressed in U.S. culture: there is not even a single specific vocabulary, but only the combined phrase "filial piety," to describe this virtue in English. On the contrary, the Chinese greatly emphasize this. We have a whole series of 24 stories of ancient exemplars practicing filial piety, including a little child warming up the quilt for his father in winter, enduring the mosquito bites for the parents and giving up a position in the government to find his mother.

After I came here, I realized that the situation is not as bad as I had imagined. We have parents' weekend and students do return back home to stay with their family when it's break. Most of the American students do need to work hard during the summer and save money to pay for their own tuition, maybe sometimes even in debt. But if they really need the help from their parents, the parents will assist them. On parents' weekend, I always hear my friends saying, "I'm inviting my parents to dinner in town." This must be one of the proud-of-myself moments that Chinese students won't experience in college. In China we don't have a part-time job on campus. Not like American students who started working and earning money as early as in their high school, Chinese students most commonly start their first job after college.

The nature of American society is to be independent. If parents support their children like the way Chinese parents do and the children don't pay back when their parents get older, it can be called selfish and unthankful. But since independence is more valued than filial piety, parents in America probably will prefer to live away from their children and see them on holidays than sticking to them every day.

This reminds me of the concept of reciprocity in my Human Ecology class. Chinese society still depends on a lot on kinship. There may not be an instant pay-back in Chinese society between parents and children but as time goes on, the role of obligation and benefit will switch.

In America, the responsibility people take on is mainly for themselves and the burden starts at a younger age. While in China, people may take on their duty later, but the responsibility will become heavier when they grow older. Anyway, there is no way that we can escape our responsibility.

Faculty educator Moore promotes curriculum innovation in sciences

By Joe Flaherty

Dr. Felicia Moore Mensah is dedicated to making connections between students and science.

The professor at Teachers College at Columbia University spoke Friday at the invitation of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity. Dr. Mensah also led workshops Friday and Saturday for faculty in the sciences.

Her scholarly foci include urban and multicultural education, teacher education and professional development, qualitative research methods, critical theory and feminist post-structuralist theory. Mensah completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Center for Curriculum Materials in Science at Michigan State University where she researched how diversity can factor into science curriculum teaching and planning. Her lecture covered culturally relevant teaching as it applies to curriculum development and reform in science teaching.

Mensah spoke about her work teaching aspiring elementary and middle school teachers. Their frame of mind about science when they enter her classroom can be a challenge for Mensah.

"When I get them in the classroom, they may not have had any science background, they may have only taken one or two science classes as high school learners and they may not have had anything in their undergraduate teaching unless it was a requirement," said Mensah. "So their background in science is not there at all. I'm moving them from the idea that science is not really important and not really relevant to the idea that diversity and science do come together in a particular way."

Mensah explained a common misconception her students have. "They come into education classes saying, 'I'm going to teach these elementary students,' but they themselves, as I see it, are also learning," she said. Using various activities and projects, Mensah prepares her pre-service teachers to be "learners in the classroom."

Interviewing students is required for Mensah's pre-service teachers during their micro-teaching experience.

"I place them in urban classrooms and they have an assignment where they do a pre-assessment interview with young learners, because they have to know what their ideas are," said Mensah. In her experience, a tenet of multicultural curriculum reform is understanding the students you are teaching. "They can't just walk in blindly and say, 'Ok, I'm going to teach a lesson.' They have to find out what the students are interested in."

Elaborating on several projects, Mensah spoke of the importance of making science accessible to teachers who, as she said, may not have had an education focused on science. One of these projects is "Science in the City," where Mensah's students have to take photographs of examples of science in the city and bring them to class the next day.

"They're like, 'Just take pictures?' Yeah, just take pictures, I tell them, but you have to be able to explain the science behind it," Mensah said.

Mensah showed photos her students had taken of ivy crawling up a building,

light passing through the lens of a pair of sunglasses and a handful of popcorn kernels.

"So I use this assignment to introduce them to the science standards, but also at the same time connect the content that they have to teach to the young learners," Mensah said.

"This is just one way they are able to make that connection between science being out in the world versus what we have to do within school science," said Mensah. She read comments from her pre-service teachers where they expressed amazement that science was indeed everywhere. They also were proud of their new familiarity with the state and national standards as a result of the project.

Culturally relevant teaching is another avenue Mensah believes can forge connections between students and the science curriculum. "Culturally relevant teaching looks at the idea of being able to think about students' past experiences, their cultural understandings and what that looks like when we think about diversity in culture and science at the same time," said Mensah. She spoke of her work as combining culturally responsive teaching and culturally relevant pedagogy. "With the teachers in their foundations classes or in their diversity class they probably would have read a little about culturally relevant teaching or culturally responsive teaching, but they probably haven't thought about it in the context of science," Mensah said.

Mensah's research helps her students think about the skills, knowledge and dispositions they need to have to broaden their understanding of what science is but also to think about the diversity of the students in their classrooms and what relevance that has for science teaching.

The framework used by Mensah has several options for introducing diversity. Rather than using an additive approach—simply adding to the curriculum readings on scientists of different cultural or ethnic backgrounds, e.g., reading about woman scientists during Women's History Month or black scientists during Black History Month—Mensah advocates a transformative approach and a social action approach.

"The transformative approach considers the personality of the researcher—you want to be able to think about what their contribution to science was and how did they make their contribution. What were some of the obstacles? And so we really get to know about how knowledge is constructed and about how it is set in this social context."

As for how to introduce socio-historical aspects when learning and teaching science, Mensah believes the important context is the personal history of the scientist.

"We don't give our students the history of the science and so for them it's just a big thick book of facts that they don't know where they came from, so we try to embed into our curriculum where [the science] came from. What were the challenges scientists faced in making their discoveries or even to be accepted in the scientific world?" Mensah used the examples of George Wash-

ington Carver and Barbara McClintock as narratives students can relate to that are often not told in science classrooms. "Carver changed the way we think about science and he grew up in a time where people did not believe he could do the things he could do," said Mensah.

The second step to culturally relevant teaching reform is the social action approach. Mensah described the key question as, "What are you going to do with the knowledge you've gained in science?" For Mensah, teaching this way helps connect the pre-service teachers with the science by bringing in real-world relevancy. She mentioned a former student who helped his elementary school students implement a recycling program at their school while learning about recycling and scientific inquiry in the process. "This is exactly what we want to have happen in the classroom: they learn the science, they internalize it to the point that they want to go out and do something about it and they act on the decisions because they've learned the science," said Mensah.

For Mensah, culturally relevant science education can have long-term implications. "It's not so hard to engage them at the elementary level but as they get older we [need to find] that continuous engagement so they want to become science majors and go into the fields of science, because we need that."

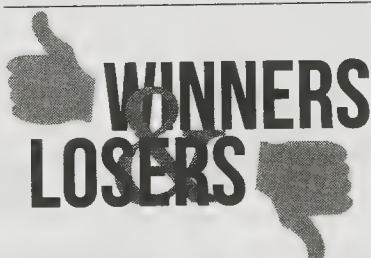
Associate Professor of Biology Jeremy Ward thought Mensah conveyed aspects of teaching essential to facilitating a connection between the educator and student.

"Dr. Mensah's lecture and visit really brought home some simple principles in teaching and learning that are applicable from kindergarten through college," Ward wrote in an email. "These include understanding and respecting students' and teachers' differing cultural backgrounds, building lessons that engage learning by providing contextual support for the student, and realizing that effective teaching is a dynamic process and requires continual introspection and renewal."



COURTESY: TEACHER'S COLLEGE AT COLUMBIA

Dr. Felicia Moore Mensah encourages the effective and interactive teaching of science.



DARTY DAYS
... have just begun.

SUN, SUN, SUN
Vitamin D!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Good luck studying for your midterms.

PROCTOR PARTIES
Citations with your salad.

GLOBAL WARMING
It's not always 80 degrees in March in Vermont?!

ST. PALMER'S DAY
Don't forget your IDs, kids.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: YOUTHFUL ALLIANCE FOR MERRYMAKING

By Leah Pickett

What do blanket forts, Nerf gun games and homemade obstacle courses have in common? At Middlebury, the common denominator is that the Youthful Alliance for Merrymaking (YAM), one of Middlebury's newest student organizations, has organized events for students to enjoy them all.

"I think it's the most unique club at Middlebury," said YAMs vice president Kwaku Acheampong '14. "Not very many clubs combine hanging out and delving into your past like this one does."

The club aims to provide a social space for students to, very simply, "play." Born out of unofficial meetings last March that involved friends playing party games like charades in Pearson's, current

president Luke Greenway '14.5 and Acheampong saw the opportunity to expand the group to include more students.

They hoped an official club would "provide a social scene that this school really needs," said Kendall Wyckoff '14.5, the group's treasurer.

Greenway found that when he started asking his friends about the possibility of making this group a real club he "got a pretty unanimous response: 'this sounds awesome, make it happen,'" he said.

The success, Greenway said, might have simply come from the fact that "it was something that sounded really fun," as well as the fact that there wasn't anything like it.

"I was surprised it wasn't already being done," said Wyckoff.

Among a slew of undertakings, the club can list a blanket fort that 40 members built in Pearsons, an obstacle course constructed in Axinn that included string, chairs, hula hoops and a segment where participants had to continue with a box over their head and a game of sardines in Bicentennial Hall that drew around 60 students, many wearing pajamas. After the game, participants made paper airplanes to throw off the top floor of the building and dropped bouncy balls, watching them bounce two — sometimes three — floors on the rebound. The group once baked pumpkin chocolate chip cookies together, often plays games (like charades) in Pearsons, and held an art night in McCullough.

"I don't know who wouldn't want to take

a study break and go play ninja or go color," said Wyckoff. "It's all very nostalgic, and thinking up ideas is so much fun. Running the club is a joy."

The group has seen particular success in its booming membership. At the last two activities fairs, Greenway estimates the club had more sign-ups than almost any other club; at the most recent one, over 80 students signed up for the group's email list, a number that represented 40 percent of the incoming Feb class. Right now, there are over 250 people on the email list.

What brought, and continues to bring the group together, Wyckoff says, is a "shared ... interest [in] being children and not wanting to give that up — just yet."

Now that the club is official, they have even more options, especially in terms of receiving SGA funding. The group recently presented a proposal for 60 Nerf guns to the SGA Finance Committee — and won it. The "Nerf blasters" will arrive over Spring Recess, and YAM hopes to first put them to use in a campus-wide game of "humans and zombies."

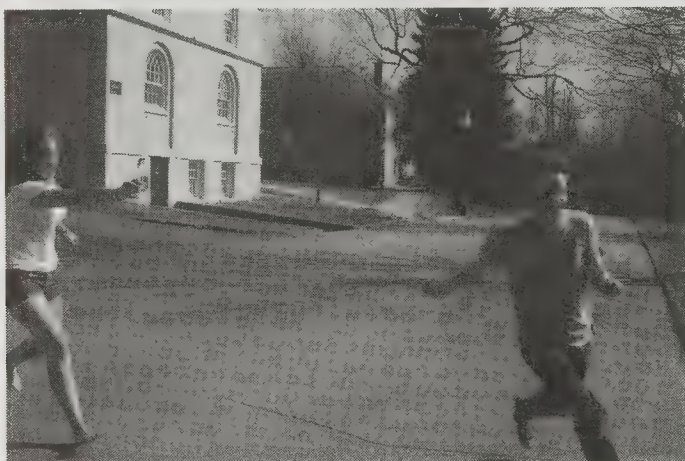
"We have a lot of ideas involving Nerf blasters, which is why we thought it was a good investment," said Wyckoff.

YAM is also interested in acquiring a large amount of Legos, and they are considering kites as well.

Greenway, Acheampong and Wyckoff generally plan all the activities, but the agenda is always open to suggestions from members. A member recently volunteered the idea of flashlight tag, Greenway said, and they're working on organizing that. In the end, they aim to make it enjoyable for as many people as possible.

"I think there's a lot of value for people in taking some time to just play in the most basic and most fun sense of the term," said Greenway. "I think that everyone has a desire to play in a childish way on some level, and I think that's an important desire."

"I really like meeting all these people who share a common interest; we're in college, but no one's afraid to indulge their inner child," said Wyckoff. "It's just really — I can't really think of a better word — fun."



COURTESY

For the members of the Youthful Alliance for Merrymaking, the Middlebury campus is a playground.

Kiss & TELL



BY RACHEL LIDDELL

I remember every detail of that fateful recess ... the smell of woodchips, how the sun reflected off of the aluminum slide. It was the first warm day of spring during my fifth grade year. I sat sunning myself beside the sand box in a pair of red short-shorts. Suddenly, a presence beside me shattered my serenity. Four fateful words slipped between the slimy lips of the prepubescent boy above — "You are SO hairy!" This stinging sentiment sent embarrassment slithering down my spine, and I stood up abruptly, promptly smacking him across the face, before running into the apple orchard to sob.

So began my battle with body hair. This remark was the first of many, and as the insecurities of my peers grew, so did the number of comments. People routinely critiqued my dark arm hair, the thickness of my eyebrows and my heavily forested legs. At first, I found these invasions of privacy acceptable. I internalized their messages and utilized the advice to better myself. By my first year of high school, I shaved my legs ev-

ery day, I over-plucked my eyebrows to the point of apparent, perpetual surprise and I battled with my bikini line before any beach adventure. When summer rolled around, I spent the first few weeks trying to discover what new removal regimen would leave my legs smooth and silky all day long. When boys asked me to shave "down there," I complied to satisfy them. As I grew more comfortable in relationships, I spoke frankly about how much time, money and pain the process required. Some offered compassion for my plight, but none accepted my body. I never questioned the legitimacy of these desires, nor why I accepted the expectation of hairlessness.

By the end of high school, I fatigued of the pressure to eradicate my body hair. I began to do a little research. Hair removal originated in ancient times as a way to reveal the marvel of the human form. Marble statues of gods and goddesses evidence the chicness of follicle-free flesh. The hairless look lost popularity during the Dark Ages, but returned with fervor during the Renaissance. Muscular, smooth paintings of men and women glorified the beauty of the human body, as they flew across the ceilings of chapels and lounged against the walls of banquet halls. In America's early years, Puritanism prohibited the practice of hair removal. Not until the 20th century, as hemlines shortened, swimsuits shrunk and nylons became more common, did women begin shaving their legs again. Originally, the practice of public hair removal was seen as a method to attract pedophiles. The porn industry,

however, normalized the procedure, and today, hairless vulvas seem to be the norm.

After discovering that hair removal in this country was relatively new, I felt even more cheated. This was a fad! Suddenly, all the shaving, waxing and plucking felt very juvenile. I wanted to embrace my post-pubescent body. Body hair happens to come in the value pack of breasts, hips and a curvaceous caboose. Sometimes, we have to accept the package deal.

When I arrived at Middlebury, I met my dark-haired beauty of a roommate, and shed my insecurities for good. Together, we cultivate our leg, armpit and pubic hair, utilizing our God-given gift to stay warm during Vermont's sub-zero nights. No Midd Kid has asked me to remove any body hair, so far. I shave as often (rarely) as I want. My hygienic habits make me feel comfortable in my body, and therefore sexy. I'm not preaching that everyone should follow my example. Your body and your sexuality should make you feel happy. If hairlessness gives you the confidence to talk to that cute guy in your geography class, or to ask for what you really want in bed, go for it. My point is beauty, desirability and sexiness stem from comfort with your body. Personally, I would rather worry less about follicles and more about fellatio. Sex offers the opportunity of genuine expression. But to begin, one must find the genuine aspects of oneself. Smooth as a baby's bottom, or thick and forested as the Green Mountains, figure out who you are, and share the love.

GLOBE MED UPDATE

The Kony 2012 video, in the sparse few weeks since it has been released, has hit the covers of magazines and newspapers alike worldwide, bringing with it much attention and discussion over the Ugandan warlord, Joseph Kony. While it will no doubt become one of the most widely watched YouTube videos of the year and has already mobilized several organizations for its cause, the Kony 2012 initiative remains as heated and

JOANNE WU

GlobeMed member

as controversial — politically, morally and socially — as it was since the day Jason Russell

first appeared before us all in this startling 30-minute film.

Focusing on the life of Jacob, a Ugandan whose brother was killed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and the attempts of the organization, Invisible Children, to thwart Kony's use of guerilla warfare in Uganda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, this film aims to do much more than simply raise awareness about the issue of Kony and his army of child soldiers. It is a call to mass action, beginning with the story of Jacob and ending in a plea for the capture of the infamously brutal LRA leader and the restoration of peace of the populations affected by the man's actions. This plea has so far been a wide success; the group has sold out its support kits, composed of stickers, posters and badges in an attempt to raise money and push the movement toward the capturing and imprisonment of Kony, and has thus far acquired more than 83 million views worldwide on YouTube.

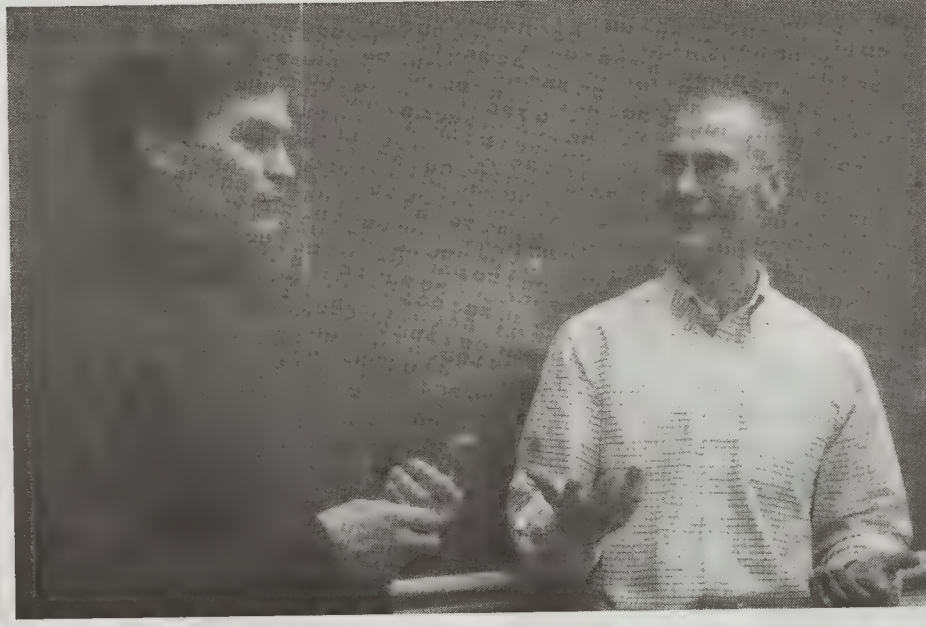
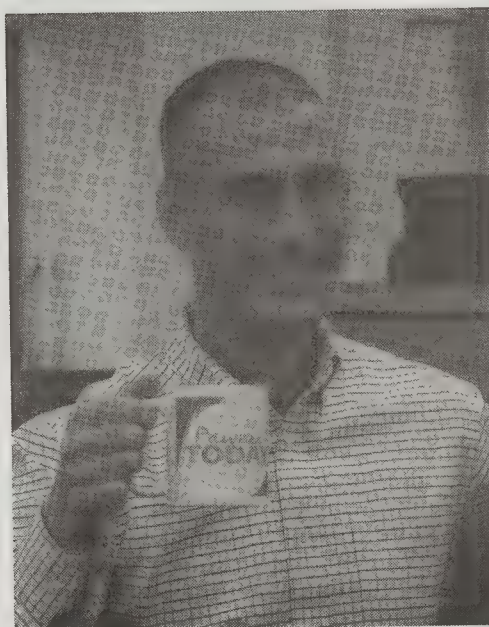
There is no doubt that this course of action, endorsed or not by the rest of the world population, remains one that will be hard to achieve and even harder to implement. But the sheer amount of media coverage afforded to the cause seems to grant it some sort of legitimacy — Invisible Children has made the initiative to involve several public figures that they've deemed to be "cultural leaders," including former President George Bush, Bill Gates and actress Angelina Jolie in its cause. So far the actions have been a success; increasing amounts of international exposure has led a trend toward supporting this cause.

Yet there are also innumerable amounts of criticism aimed not only at Jason Russell for his overly sentimental and grossly understated depiction of the Uganda situation, but also at the lack of transparency regarding the daily functions of the organization itself. To some, the intentions of Invisible Children remain unclear; little to no factual information is disclosed in the Kony 2012 video concerning the actual acts of violence in Uganda, "manipulat[ing] facts for strategic purposes, exaggerating the scale of LRA abductions and murders" as stated in a recent article released online by *Foreign Affairs*. That fear is not entirely unfounded, as the increasing popularity of the video has left many other important issues disregarded or slighted; for instance, the 30 civilians killed in an armed attack in South Kivu received very little media attention, if any — eclipsed entirely by the heat of the Kony 2012 discussion.

More than ever, many Ugandans themselves have expressed their discontent with the simplicity in which the issue is addressed. The fact that the LRA had been created in opposition to the brutal oppression led first and foremost by the Ugandan army passes unnoticed under the general knowledge of the public, and to many that prevents the justification of western intervention; may we perhaps be removing one leader of violence, only to replace it with another? And will this rise of awareness following this greatly sentimental ordeal subside at the first inklings of another terrible act of violence?

Perhaps with the Kony 2012 video, only time will tell.

‘Professor Pundits’ duo takes on the 2012 election



AARON KELLY

By Ali Andrews

In December, Professor of Political Science Matt Dickinson and Associate Professor of Political Science Bert Johnson first recorded a commentary on the current presidential campaign for the *Middlebury Magazine* website. Now the two, dubbed the “Professor Pundits,” have quite a presence and following online with a series of seven videos, a blog and recent prolific tweeting.

In their videos, such as, “Who’s got the Iowa Momentum? (And Does it Really Matter?)” and “Sorting Out Super Tuesday,” Johnson and Dickinson sit across from each other and hash out updates on the race. The two hope to provide a neutral source of news on an often-polarized media topic using their political science background to contextualize current events. Though their presence on the Internet is a departure from their regular professorial roles in the classroom, they see this new format as providing a kind of synergy to their academic research and teaching on campus.

The idea for the short video commentaries came out of the Office of Public Affairs, inspired by past political updates from Dickinson and Johnson in other formats. During the race leading up to the 2008 presidential election, Dickinson started an email chain for his students to keep them up to date on the presidential campaigns. His updates were so popular with his students that his email recipient list soon expanded to include friends, parents, other professors and community members.

Dickinson then started a blog in August of 2008 called *Presidential Power: A Non-Partisan Analysis of Presidential Politics*, to better distribute his running commentary to a broadening audience. Even when the election ended in November, his commentary did not. Dickinson has continued to post regularly on *Presidential Power* and, with the 2012 campaign, now tries to post daily.

In addition, Dickinson and Johnson hosted Election Night Out in the Grille in 2008. They followed the election results posted online and interpreted their progression.

“We talked about the candidates and where the media has

gotten it wrong. We called the election for Obama before CNN did which was exciting for us,” said Johnson. “We’re used to working as a team.”

This winter, when the demand for political updates heightened as the caucuses began for the 2012 presidential election, the Office of Public Affairs thought the two should expand into video.

Johnson explained that it was not a far stretch from how he and Professor Dickinson interact daily.

“We talk about current politics all the time. I’ll just walk into his office or he into mine and we’ll discuss what’s going on,” said Johnson. The two have their offices right next to each other in Warner Hall.

“It requires little effort beyond our regular schedule,” said Johnson. “We usually plan for a few minutes ahead of time. We’ll each have a few talking points so that when we’re filming Matt can say, ‘Bert, I understand you’ve been thinking about campaign funding ...’ and I can go into what I want to say about that.” Though there is little involved in preparation for these commentaries, they still flow without hitch — a testament to their comfort as professors, and with each other, in conversing on politics.

Though the material is familiar to them, they have to adjust from their professorial habits to accommodate the short commentary. “As professors we’re used to having about an hour to get around to our point. Here we have only a few minutes to provide useful information,” said Johnson.

While Dickinson and Johnson are used to lecturing to a group of twenty-odd young people facing them in a classroom, their audience has become an amorphous and mostly anonymous group of internet-users. Neither of them have a sense of who they’re talking to, though they “imagine it’s mostly Middlebury alumni, parents and students, but I don’t really know,” said Johnson.

From comments and responses to his blog, Dickinson gets the sense that his readership is an “eclectic group.” “You get a lot of responses from the left and from the right. People want you to take a side. You don’t hear from the middle of

the road people but the very opinionated ones.”

One of the risks involved in their expanded audience is a more critical audience. “I try to be as careful as I can, but of course I make mistakes. The thing about current events is that you don’t have all the time you want to craft a blog post,” said Dickinson.

“It’s humbling. I know now why so many celebrities have to retract their statements. If what you’re saying is constantly being recorded then you’re bound to say something wrong,” said Johnson.

“But in some ways, having your views out on the Internet isn’t that different from being a professor. I felt strange when I first started teaching because I would walk around campus and students would know me but I didn’t know them,” he added.

“Sometimes you’ll write on a hot topic. One time I wrote a post on why Hillary Clinton might want to challenge Obama for the Democratic candidacy. The blog got cross-posted on another blog and a lot of Democrats were hugely insulted. I got a lot of responses calling me unpublishable names. People can comment on my blog and can hide behind anonymity,” explained Dickinson.

“I’ve found that mostly people are very forgiving, though,” added Johnson.

Both Dickinson and Johnson appear in the media occasionally, quoted by journalists as an expert in their field or in writing their own articles. When asked how he got to be a resource for journalists, Dickinson responded, “That’s the power of the Internet.” Journalists find him through references and links to his blog. “They’re looking for someone with expertise in the field. They use my blog as a reason to quote me.”

Dickinson was cited in an NPR article, “Super Tuesday: 4 Things to Watch” on March 6, saying “Georgia actually is a bigger deal than Ohio.”

When he has time, he is also a journalist himself, with a few articles in *U.S. News and World Report* and one published in the *Washington Post*. “Sometimes I will also repost something from my blog to another page when someone asked,” he said. In February, a Washington correspondent for *The New Yorker*,

twitter

Bert Johnson
@bnjohns
WI legis. Adjourns w/ chaos, 30-hour Dem filibuster. “I’ll try to be brief because I don’t even saying.” Bit.ly/FPbEEh
17 Mar

Bert Johnson
@bnjohns
VT Gov Shumlin supports bill to give driver’s licenses to undocumented migrant farm workers. Bit.ly/A3vrhd
15 Mar

Matthew Dickinson
@MattDickinson44
Don’t look now, but Mitt is closing gap with Newt in Alabama for second-round will it affect district level delegates?
13 Mar

The Fix
@TheFix
Alabama and Mississippi wins give Santorum what he’s always wanted: A 1 on 1 with Romney. Ow.ly/9DP6Q
13 Mar

Matthew Dickinson
@MattDickinson44
@TheFix Dream on, Teen Queen.
13 Mar

Bert Johnson
@bnjohns
“Less” campaign spending this year than usual, even counting SuperPACs. Stunner for everyone but political scientists.
13 Mar

Fmr Gov Jim Douglas
@JimDouglasVT
Who am I? And why am I here?
11 Mar

Matthew Dickinson
@MattDickinson44
@JimDouglasVT You are an imposter, and you are impersonating the real Governor!
11 Mar

Bert Johnson
@bnjohns
After he makes several weird gaffes, CO Gov. Hickenlooper’s wife explains: “John is a dork.” Bit.ly/wHLSVO
7 Mar

Bert Johnson
@bnjohns
Middlebury, VT town meeting began at 7pm and ended at 11:19 last night. Real democracy takes time!
6 Mar

Matthew Dickinson
@MattDickinson44
Santorum up 12% in ND with 60% vote counted. Paul=bridesmaid again?
6 Mar

Ryan Lizza, tweeted that following Dickinson’s tweets, among a couple others, “will make you smarter about the presidential race.”

Johnson has been quoted by journalists from several news organizations ranging from *USA Today* to *Vermont Public Radio* (VPR). Most recently he was cited as an expert reference for a VPR piece on the pros and cons of citizen lawmaking in February. He equates information-packed interviews with journalist to his and Dickinson’s three-minute-long video commentaries saying, “You have get to the point quickly because there is a lot of information to get across in few words.”

What Johnson and Dickinson hope to provide that they feel the media lacks is a neutral, well-informed and contextualized point of view. “The media has a tendency to focus on what’s happening right now. They won’t think about, say, how the 2012 primaries in New Hampshire went with respect to the 2008 primaries in New Hampshire,” said Johnson.

“The media also has a tendency to focus too much on personalities. They’re talking about: is Bachmann strange? Is Santorum petulant? Is Newt erratic? As political scientists, personalities don’t concern us this much. We talk about things like GDP and war in the context of elections, not personalities.”

Dickinson sees the media as often being problematically controversial. “One way that blogs attract readers is by being controversial. This contributes to polarization in the media.” As political scientists, Dickinson and Johnson hope to be a neutral source of information that draws upon historical and social context to explain current events.

They are not sure what the future of their video commentary will be, but Johnson said that where there is demand, they will supply it. “If people keep watching them, we’ll keep making them,” he said.

Dickinson explained the benefits of their online endeavors to their future academic research. “There’s a synergy between my academic work and blogging,” he said. “I can test out research ideas there and get feedback. Academic research just takes so long, so in that sense they are very different endeavors. But I think it’s benefiting the College. I hope it’s benefiting the College.”



An Autobiographical Dance



Award-winning dancer and choreographer Kyle Abraham faces off in a scene from his autobiographical piece *The Radio Show*, which came to campus March 16 and 17. Abraham also gave a master class and lecture during his stay in Middlebury.

By Alan Sutton

The Radio Show, an abstract, autobiographical exploration by Bessie Award-winning dancer and choreographer Kyle Abraham and his dance company Abraham in Motion, drew engaged audiences on the evenings of March 16 and 17. First premiering in Pittsburgh, Penn. in January 2010, and going on to premiere in New York City, this performance, part of the College's Performing Arts Series, offers an exciting and touching experience for just about anyone.

The piece is based on Abraham's personal history, specifically dealing with 106.7 FM and AM 860 WAMO, two urban radio stations in Pittsburgh, which went off the air in 2009. The performance also delves into his father's diagnosis with Alzheimer's 10 years ago. Abraham poses such questions as, "Without black radio, where is the audible voice of the black community? Radio was so prevalent during times of strife in the past. Where is its place today? Is radio fading away? Are we still listening?" He weaves responses into a wide range of musical and dance styles.

As the piece began, Abraham emerged silently from a side curtain, just subtly interrupting the funky radio tunes filling the house. Moments later, he found himself in the audience, breaking his hypnotic, lost stare to sit down and introduce himself to strangers. All heads turned, probably wondering how this artist can break his focus in the first moments of a show. However, he soon chose a new, isolated seat and composed himself in silence. The audience, a pool of extremely tense onlookers, watched as he slowly stood, clearly exhibiting physical signs of his father's illness, and made his way toward the stage.

His 15 to 20 minute solo introduction then burst into a high energy twist, with long periods of stillness

juxtaposed with a continuing raucous soundtrack. The performance was filled with these sorts of evocative moments. Audience member Rachel Nunez '14 responded to this choice to "not do what's expected from the music." Some of Abraham's company's wildest phrases burst out of complete silence, and used a broad range of styles at a high level.

"Really talented dancers defaulting to classical dance moves is not the most interesting," Nunez said. *The Radio Show's* cast of seven dancers certainly avoided that sort of cliché. Hip-hop dance met soulful Aretha Franklin tunes, while beautiful contemporary interactions played out over radio show interviews and the frequent static of changing of a tuning radio. Comic turns with a hairspray bottle turned into intense, almost violent phrases that evoked nostalgia in an audience engulfed in an age where the radio is almost obsolete.

Penny Campbell, director of the College's dance program, discussed how Abraham used improvisation and everyday gestures in his creative work.

"He is working with material that includes what he calls 'found' gesture — gestures that any of us might do whether we are dancers or not. He also seems to collaborate with his dancers in making sections of his pieces," Campbell said.

Signs of collaboration within the company were easy to spot in the performance. A number of artists drew from the slightest gesture of touching a knee, and transformed that with their own individual attitude. This technique of "making a phrase from a gesture," as described by Hannah Pierce '13, "humanized [the dancers] on stage."

The impressive sense of adventure, fun and ownership that each duet, trio or group communicated in their movement (made even more impressive know-

ing that almost the entire cast has changed since its 2010 premiere) brought both Friday and Saturday nights' audiences to their feet.

The company's time at the College extended beyond their two evening performances with a master class and lecture demonstration on March 15. These residency activities allowed students, faculty and community members to gain a sense of the company's skill level and Abraham's creative techniques.

Campbell pointed out the importance of having professional dance companies on campus. She said that "seeing the work of professional artists gives [students] a sense of what is possible and, perhaps, how their own interests coincide or diverge. Kyle is articulate verbally as well as physically and models the kind of dedication to movement art and experimentation that I believe is inspirational for our students."

"Being exposed to as much dance as possible helps you as a dancer. It gives you a range of starting points," said Pierce, continuing on to say that bringing technically difficult and creative works like *The Radio Show* "is the most important thing that can be done with [the Performing Arts Series] funds," especially when supporting younger artists like Kyle Abraham.

Many audience members expressed their satisfaction after each show, and Abraham himself commented on a number of people who came back after Friday's show to see it again.

"Everyone on campus should have gone to see it," said Jill Moshman '14. Given the show's vivid connection to issues of personal history, race, community and mental health, and the many moments of teary eyes in the audience, it is hard to disagree with this sort of sentiment.

**DON'T
MISS
THIS**

Artist Talk: Michael Jordan

The Studio Art Program presents an artist talk by German printmaker Michael Jordan. In a three-week residency at the College, he will participate in a drawing marathon with students, working with text and imagery.

3/22, 4:30 P.M., JOHNSON MEMORIAL BUILDING, RM 304

Theatre Auditions

Calling all College students! This April, there will be auditions for roles in the two fall 2012 faculty-directed productions. Directors Cheryl Faraone and Alex Draper '88 will supervise. Contact the Theater Program for more info.

4/4, 4:15 TO 7 P.M., CENTER FOR THE ARTS, RM 232

The Global Assault on Africa's Resources

Michael T. Klare of Amherst College presents an illustrated lecture about how the world's relentless demand for oil, minerals, timber and other raw materials is producing war, poverty and environmental devastation in Africa.

4/5, 4:30 P.M., ROBERT A. JONES '59 HOUSE, CONFERENCE ROOM

Gossensass vividly interprets characters

By Greta Olivares

The Hepburn Zoo was full of whispers and excitement as the audience awaited the last performance of a three-day series of shows of the new Maria Irene Fornés production, *The Summer in Gossensass*, which showed March 15-17.

This senior theater work of Lucy Van Atta '12 and independent directing project of Sasha Rivera '12 did not disappoint; it kept the audience on their toes and laughing the entire time. People smiled, giggled and leaned forward throughout the performance, eager to know what would happen next or what other thoughts would occur to characters Elizabeth Robins (Van Atta) and Marion Lea (Christina Fox '13.5).

Rivera was attracted to the production because of its surprising humor. "I was drawn to this play because I thought it was funny," Rivera said, "and I was intrigued by how the playwright, Maria Irene Fornés, was able to create humor out of a situation that seems like it should be inherently boring."

The play tells the story of two actresses eagerly anticipating the English translation of the new Henrik Ibsen play, *Hedda Gabler*. In a way, this play shows the process that all actors take when trying to interpret the truth between the lines and the reality of the character in question.

As the character of Vernon (Will Ford '12.5) said during the first few scenes, "A character in a play has no past, but it has a destiny."

This certainly describes the play as Elizabeth and the rest of the characters try to discover Gabler's intentions as well as imagine her past in order to understand her future. Elizabeth in particular tries to understand and play around with different scenarios that could explain Gabler's personality, as she wishes to play her in the new English theatre production.

The Summer in Gossensass can definitely



be summarized as a "play within a play," yet it leaves the viewer with so much more: it is not only about a play, but also the process of authentically bringing a play to life and the actors' journey to fully capturing the essence of their roles.

After closing night, there was no doubt that all of the hard work paid off and that this student-run production was able to get past the difficulties. It was able to portray Fornés' words and thoughts as authentically as possible, leaving the audience amazed and wanting more.

Now that the production is over, Rivera expressed joy at the accomplishment. "I feel great," Rivera said. "It was definitely the most challenging thing I have ever had to do. We were making changes the same day that we opened. But I'm very satisfied with the way it turned out."



ALL PHOTOS ANDREW PODRYGULA

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Elizabeth (Lucy Van Atta '12) and Marion (Christina Fox '13.5) try to figure out the playwright's intentions; Vernon (Will Ford '12.5) poses with Van Atta, Fox and Lady Bell (Adrienne Losch '12); the four main characters discuss the Ibsen play.

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT: STEFANI LAB

By Ben Anderson

Assistant Professor of Psychology Mark Stefani has spent much of his academic career studying schizophrenia, especially using rat-tested models to learn more about the disease and how it affects the brain. Of the many students who have worked in his lab, Amy Johnson '12 and Nina Wright '12 have spent a lot of time with Stefani and his rats, learning more about schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder characterized by the breakdown of mental function and inhibited emotional responsiveness. Often, the disease manifests itself as hallucinations (audio, visual or otherwise), delusions and disorganized thoughts. The disorder affects approximately one percent of the country's population. The most common treatment of schizophrenia involves intensive therapy and prescription anti-psychotics.

Wright, a neuroscience major, is working on an independent project in Stefani's lab. Her research has less to do with schizophrenia specifically, but is instead looking at declarative memory function and how it may be related to the disorder.

One of the many neurotransmitters in the hippocampus — the region of the brain that deals with memory and spatial navigation — is orexin. When it was originally discovered in the past decade or so, orexin was linked with sleep and wake cycles and hunger satiation. There has been substantial evidence that indicates orexin may also be linked to declarative memory function, though little research has been done to prove the link. Wright hopes to study the connection between this neurotransmitter and memory function in the brain.

"There is a test called the Novel Object Recognition Test," said Wright. "[We] place the rat in an arena with two identical objects, letting the rat explore

these objects for fifteen minutes, recording how much time they spend exploring each object. Then, you wait four hours and place them back in the arena with a new object. If they spend less time exploring the original object and more time on the new one, it indicates they've developed a memory for the object." After this process, researchers can analyze the memory processes in the rats and study the role of orexin in the function.

Orexin is one of the three neurotransmitters that Stefani has looked at in his research on schizophrenia. The others are cannabinoids and neurosteroids.

"We've found that orexin is implicated in memory function," Wright said, "and if our research is published, other groups with better resources could use what we find as a jumping off point in continuing research into orexin and memory issues."

Where Wright's research is more general, analyzing the role of neurotransmitters, Stefani's lab also looks more closely at schizophrenia as a disorder. With this research, Stefani and his students hope to make progress towards improving schizophrenia treatment methods.

In her research, Johnson is trying to build models of schizophrenia in rats. The symptom of the disorder Johnson is looking at is cognitive deficit, currently one of the most widely researched aspects of schizophrenia. In humans, researchers use a test called the Wisconsin Card Sorting Test. In this test, a group of cards with shapes of various sorts, color and number is placed before the subject. The researcher then asks the patient to sort the cards into groups with a specific rule in mind not revealed to the patient. The patient is told whether or not his arrangement is correct and through this feedback, must figure out the pattern. After a certain number of correct performances, the rule is changed without telling the patient, who must again figure out

the new rule.

Research has shown that schizophrenics tend to perseverate; that is, they have trouble adapting to the new rule, even after the old rule is no longer correct. This demonstrates serious cognitive deficit on the part of the patient.

Following this model, Johnson uses a similar test adapted for the rats. Johnson places the rats in a maze divided into quarters with different color and texture. One quarter is closed off and the rats come to a fork in the road, with the "correct" path leading to a reward pellet. This pattern is repeated and eventually changed, similar to the Wisconsin Card Test. If this model proves to be successful, it can then be used in the development of treatment for cognitive deficit.

When asked why she was drawn to this research, Johnson cited her time studying abroad in Kenya and Zanzibar during her junior year.

"In Zanzibar, I worked in a mental hospital for a month and many of the patients had been diagnosed with schizophrenia," she said. "This got me really interested in continuing psychiatric research."

Sufferers of schizophrenia lose most of their quality of life and many need to be institutionalized for their disorder. Currently, treatment methods are very basic: they address only some of the symptoms and can't actually cure the disorder, so most patients are confined to treatment for the rest of their life. Furthermore, research like what Johnson and Wright have done in Stefani's lab has proved vital in both our understanding and treatment of a debilitating mental disorder.

FROM THE TOP: Nina Wright '12, Amy Johnson '12 and Florence DiBiase '13 are all involved in Professor Mark Stefani's neuroscience lab researching aspects of schizophrenia.



COURTESY

Orchestra showcases competition winner

By Emily Scarisbrick

The Middlebury College Orchestra performed a program of theatrical music in the Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall last Sunday, March 18. In addition to works by Weber, Delius and Berlioz, the concert showcased this year's winner of the Alan and Joyce Beucher Concerto Competition, Suzanne Calhoun '14. Calhoun treated the audience to the rich, underappreciated tone of the French horn in her performance of the first and last movements of Haydn's Horn Concerto No. 2. The award is given annually to a student instrumentalist, offering them a cash prize and the opportunity to play selections from a concerto with the Middlebury College Orchestra. Calhoun, a sophomore from Jerico, Vt., has been playing the French horn for eleven years.

Before Calhoun's performance, the evening began with Weber's Overture to Der Freischütz, which draws on motifs from the opera of the same title. It's said to have inspired Wagner to be a composer when he heard it as a child. The piece begins incredibly softly; the strings trickled gently up and down until the entrance of the horn quartet drew out the melody.

Some of the most memorable moments of this piece were the individual wind motifs passed around between different instruments; Amanda Kaminsky '13 started the sequence with a deliciously mellow tone of the clarinet's often neglected lower register that spilled out into the audience and filled the Concert Hall even as a solo instrument. Though some of the crispness of individual notes was lost in the body of

the orchestra when the tempo changed, once the instrumentalists had reached the refrain, the sound captured the concert space with its energy. The invigorating and up-tempo forte ending concluded the Overture with a high.

Following the evening's theme of "A Walk in Paradise Garden," all but the strings cleared the stage to provide a small chamber accompaniment for Calhoun's concerto. We refer to the piece she performed as "Haydn's Horn Concerto No. 2," although truthfully its origins are ambiguous. Regardless of its actual composer, the symmetry of the early classical structure offered a nice counterpart to the heavy German Romanticism of the Weber.

Given the extraordinary number of notes Calhoun had to play in this piece, her performance was of the highest standard. The strings were always well balanced beneath her, and she was clearly in charge of the group as a soloist should be: neither dashing away from nor totally overshadowing her formal classical accompaniment. The performance had everything that could be asked of a concerto performance, and both cadenzas were particularly memorable. They revealed a sliver of the glory of the horn as a virtuosic solo instrument.

Putting together a concerto performance in such a short space of time is no mean feat, either. "The competition was in late January," Calhoun described, "so I started preparing at the end of fall semester, and practiced during Christmas break and whenever I could through. With horn, it is important to play every day in order to get in shape to be able to play well. For the last several



JIAJI ZHU

Suzanne Calhoun '14 performed Haydn's Horn Concerto No. 2 with the College Orchestra last Sunday, March 18 under conductor Andrew Massey.

weeks, I have been practicing for about an hour a day, often in addition to rehearsals for other ensembles."

The final two pieces deviated from the classical, structured feel of the Haydn to evoke a more free-flowing, lush sound. As the full orchestra returned on stage, Delius's "The Walk to Paradise Garden" utilized each instrument fully to create a rich layering of sound that came into its own with the entrance of the brass section alongside vibrato strings. The piece is characterized by dense texture, setting the scene of two doomed lovers on a summer evening, and capturing the thick and complicated emotions of the couple.

Again, the wind section really shone in

the performance, especially Owen Tatum's and Dan Frostman's delicate solo passages on the oboe and cor anglais above swaying strings. The tonality of the piece was luscious as well, chords blending interestingly into each other through chromatic steps to create an almost jazz-like effect.

The low tones of Emma Stanford's '12 flute melted into the near-perfect ending of this piece; the control of the orchestra as they faded into a barley audible piano was entrancing.

Berlioz's Roman Carnival quickly moved away from this contemplative mood with its frantic opening and offbeat strings. The short piece burst with contrast and built its pace up to a raucous ending for the evening.

Visiting ensemble blends music from East and West

By Grady Trela

The name "Intersection" is more than fitting for the new ensemble that performed at the Mahaney Center for the Arts on March 17. Blending traditional Chinese music with Western art music, the group brought an extremely unique sound that is worth hearing if for no other reason than to broaden your views of what music can be. Although the performance featured some fairly accessible works bearing a traditional Chinese aesthetic, the majority of the pieces tested the audience's conditioned ideas of harmony and structure.

The ensemble's members include Gao Hong (pipa), Nicola Melville (piano), David Hagedorn (percussion) and Jun Qian (clarinet). Hong, a music faculty member along with Melville at Carleton College, is a musical prodigy from China who became a professional musician at the age of twelve. This was clear in the way her instrument, a pear-shaped lute known as the pipa, seemed like an extension of her body as she wove together musical lines in the way only a virtuoso can.

Indeed, the musicianship of all the performers represented an echelon not commonly encountered. Hagedorn, an artist in residence at St. Olaf College, has extensively performed jazz and classical percussion, having also studied drumming styles from Brazil and Cuba, among others. Qian, who is assistant professor of music at St. Olaf College, previously performed as the principal clarinetist in the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, while pianist Melville of New Zealand has performed internationally and won the National Concerto Competition in her native country.

Together, the musicians executed complex pieces that played with atonality, including works by Middlebury's own Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music Peter Hamlin. Hamlin's new piece *Spring, River, and Auto Junkyard on a Moonlit Night* debuted that evening. The performers, who seemed to thrive

on sharp contrasts and quick changes in dynamics, were well suited for the piece whose dreamlike mood at the beginning gives way suddenly to an aggressive, almost jazzy cacophony. After throwing in a few tone clusters, it was almost like hearing a different piece until earlier themes returned.

For all the emotion and virtuosity in the performance, it was not for everyone. The musicians mostly performed contemporary art music rooted in the classical tradition with an experimental quality stemming in part from the instrumentation, which included the traditional Chinese pipa. In a way, this is the kind of music for musicians and music lovers familiar with historical trends in music and the evolution of form. Anyone can appreciate the talent that goes into performing and writing this music, but it's easier to understand that the composer and performers aren't angry with you, punishing you with non sequitur chords and passages, when you've been primed with Schoenberg and Minimalism. Unlike Beethoven's symphonies in which it is easier to understand what the composer was feeling, this kind of music gives you less to grasp onto.

However, just as in literature, not all music is meant to be easy to understand. It is not as though these composers are necessarily trying to express some lofty intellectual statement, either. Rather, this type of music cannot be put into a box, understood as some cohesive whole, because its amorphousness is its very strength. If you can suspend judgment long enough, the music often resonates on an emotional level that you do not entirely understand, but nevertheless commands the full attention of all sensory faculties. Pure human experience is beyond ideas of continuity and form, and it was the poet Joseph Campbell who once said that people aren't seeking meaning in life so much as the feeling of being alive. If the sole criterion for a great performance is whether or not it gives the audience this opportunity, then the "Intersection" ensemble succeeded.



JIAJI ZHU

"Intersection" blended traditional Chinese music with Western art music in their performance on the pipa, piano and clarinet last Saturday, March 17.



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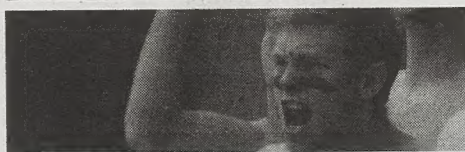
EDITORS' PICKS

Will the men's baseball team win more or less than seven games over spring break?

How many NESCAC wins will the men's lacrosse team have after spring break?

Who will lead the softball team in Runs Batted In when we return from spring break?

Who will win the Division I men's basketball national championship?



DAMON HATHEWAY (46-38, .548)



DILLON HUPP (106-90, .541)



OWEN TEACH (15-14, .517)



ALEX EDEL (62-70, .470)



KATIE SIEGNER (79-91, .465)

LESS

Katie, playing the role of Vegas hoping for the push, gutsy. Team comes back at .500.

FIVE

I'll guarantee a win over Wesleyan this year.

JESSICA PORACKY '13
The Coffrin connection!

KENTUCKY

It's such a gross pick, but the tournament is proceeding perfectly for Coach Cal (vomit).

MORE

And I'm looking for three of those wins to come at Williams' expense.

FOUR

It'll be tough to win three straight on the road.

JESSA HOFFMAN '13

She was a force in the lineup last year. Look for more of the same this season.

KENTUCKY

All the SEC does is win national championships.

MORE

Why not? I need to make up some ground after I got shafted last week. Damon, the concert was great ...

FIVE

Their play in the 4th last week against Conn. Coll. was fantastic. Put it on the board.

JESSICA PORACKY '13
Make me proud, Jessica!

KENTUCKY

Looking for my Washington Wizards to get one of these guys come draft time.

LESS

7 of 13 games is a lot. They will do well though.

FIVE

It is still the beginning of the season and I think that three games on the road will be tough.

JESSICA PORACKY '13

She was one of the leaders in RBI last year and will be a star again this year.

UNC

Ya. I'm original. And sticking with my pick despite the injury.

EXACTLY SEVEN

Benefits of having an inside source? I hope you're right about this Kyle.

FIVE

NESCAC championship let's go!

ALY DOWNING '12

The only senior and one of the captains — this girl's gonna have a big year.

KENTUCKY

My bracket's already screwed, but here's to hoping.

AVOID BRAIN FREEZE

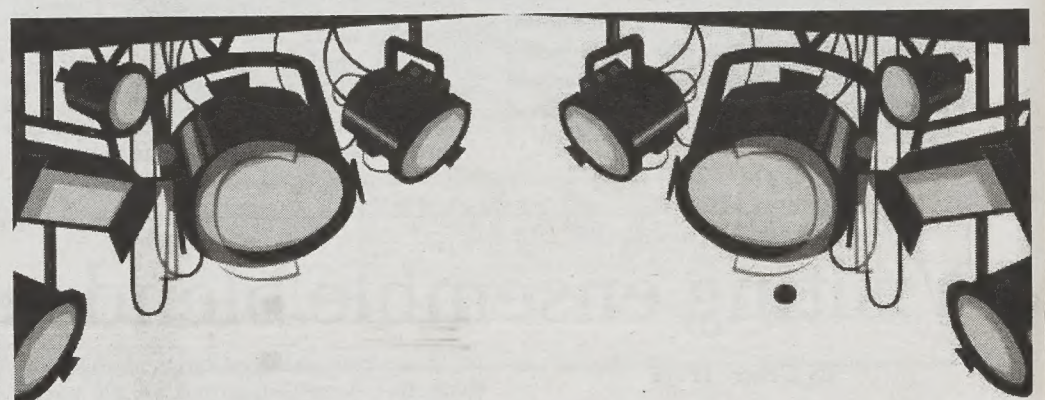


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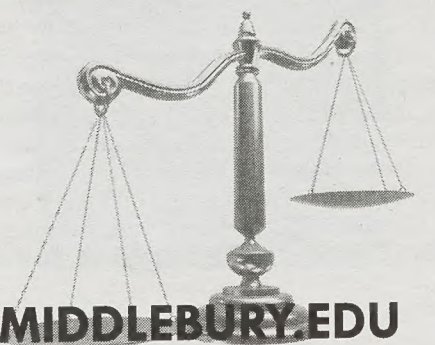
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All-American honors given to several winter season athletes

By Dillon Hupp

Several Middlebury athletes received post-season honors following the conclusion of the winter sports season, which saw playoff success come to numerous Panthers teams. Ryan Sharry '12 and Lauren Greer '13 were named All-Americans for men's basketball and women's hockey, respectively, and Margo Cramer '12 was named the New-England athlete of the year for track and field.

In addition to being an All-American, Sharry was named the NESCAC player of the year, D3Hoops.com Northeast District player of the year and the M.V.P. of the Senior All-Star game in Salem, Va. Sharry, who was also an All-American last season, is only the second Panther in the history of the program to earn such honors (Ben Rudin '09 was an All-American in 2009). He led the NESCAC in scoring and blocked shots this season and was eighth nationally in shooting percentage, making a scintillating 61.4 percent of his field goal attempts on the year. In the all-star game, Sharry scored 20 points to go along with 18 rebounds in just 18 minutes of play. He finishes his career fifth all-time in career points at Middlebury, and second in rebounds and blocks.

"Winning POY is a great honor, but it definitely wouldn't be possible without my teammates," said Sharry. "Our guards can get to the rim on anyone and gave me

a lot of open looks this season. Peter and our other big men made it so other teams couldn't double team in the post."

After leading Middlebury women's hockey in scoring and to a NESCAC championship, Greer found herself on the All-American team and a first-team All-NESCAC selection. With this honor, Greer becomes a two-time All-American for the 2011-12 school year, as she was also named an All-American for her performance as a member of the field hockey team in the fall. On the ice, Greer scored 13 goals and notched 16 assists, which was good for second in the conference in total points at 1.21 ppg. Greer was named the NESCAC player of the week on Feb. 13, and now has 71 points in 73 career games for the Panthers.

Cramer earned the title of New England region athlete of the year by virtue of her status as a member of Middlebury's NCAA championship distance medley relay team and an All-American in the mile. Cramer also won the mile and 800 meter event at this season's New England Division III championships and the ECAC Division III mile. In addition to these accomplishments, Cramer was named the sole NESCAC recipient of an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, which are awarded to student-athletes who excel both academically and athletically and represent grants of \$7,500. Cramer earned the scholarship based on her performance as a member

of Middlebury's women's cross country team last fall, which finished second at the NCAA championships. Only 58 such scholarships were awarded for fall student-athletes this year, and Cramer is the first Panther to receive a Postgraduate scholarship since 2006.

"The New England award was a huge honor and one that I would not have been able to earn alone," said Cramer. "My races at the New England DIII Championship were entirely for the team — it was a long day with plenty of laps around the 200-meter indoor track at Smith, but at the end of the meet I was happy that I contributed as much as possible to our team standing."

Middlebury also had eight student-athletes named to this year's Winter NESCAC sportsmanship team. These Panthers were honored for what the NESCAC recognizes as "outstanding dedication to sportsmanship," and represent each of Middlebury's winter sports teams.

This year's honorees were Nolan Thompson '12 from men's basketball, Brittany Perfetti '12 from women's basketball, Charlie Strauss '12 from men's hockey, Mackenzie Stevens '12 from women's hockey, Valentin Quan '12 from men's squash, Abby Jenkins '14 from women's squash, Mike Oster '14 from men's swimming and diving and Nora Daly '13 from women's swimming and diving.

THE LEGACY OF BASEBALL

The 70- and 80-degree weather that has swept through Middlebury, Vt., over the past few days has some of you daydreaming about your latest plans for an excursion up Snake Mountain or dazed by the return of miniskirts and muscles, which had — until recently — been forgotten in the bottom drawer or layered beneath piles of winter clothes. Yes, spring has returned, and while the benefits of the warmer weather are widespread, the temperature spike means just one thing to me: the return of baseball.

Though America's past pastime has been demoted to a distant third behind the NFL and the NBA in the hearts of Americans, baseball has left a legacy unlike the other major sports. The history of baseball and its fanfare has connected generations of people. Baseball of 1950 or even 1920 resonates with us still today. More people on campus can tell you who Babe Ruth is than Albert Pujols or Barry Bonds and the average fan would have less trouble naming the team that won the 1918 World Series than the 2004 or 2007 Series. The same thing cannot be said of any other sport.

The success of modern-day baseball is based in the success of baseball of the past. As a result, many kids are introduced to baseball by listening to stories their parents or grandparents attending day-night doubleheaders at Yankee stadium or watching players like Willie Mays or Roberto Clemente play. My dad sold me on baseball this way and his mom sold him before that.

My grandmother, Marilyn Damon Hatheway — who was an avid baseball fan and inspired my dad's lifelong love of the sport — succumbed to ovarian cancer more than 15 years ago. While I have almost no living memory of the woman who is both my namesake and largely responsible for my love of baseball, over the winter break I stumbled across a scrapbook that she made when she was a young girl.

Nana, as I called her, filled the now brittle, yellowed pages with everything from pictures of Ted Williams — for whom she carried a considerable crush — to scorecards she kept from the 1941 season and the notes she scribbled on the memorable events she witnessed.

"Mother, Shirley and I saw Lefty Grove win [his 300th game,] she wrote in one entry. "It was the most thrilling game that I had ever seen or heard. I yelled myself hoarse."

On another page, she clipped a typewritten note she received, congratulating her on a question she submitted to Baseball Fan Interviews on July 3, 1941, for which she received a \$1 prize. Undoubtedly assuming that a man had submitted the question, the response was addressed to Mr. Damon, my grandmother's maiden name. With pride, I'm sure, my soon-to-be 15-year old grandmother, crossed out the Mr. and scribbled Miss in its place.

The faded green book is the tangible link that I have to my late grandmother, but her passion for the game of baseball has been passed down through my dad and, quite clearly, to me.

While our team allegiances over the years have changed — my grandmother was a raging Red Sox fan and my dad was pulled by the Pirates before he and I settled with Seattle — sports fans speak a universal language.

In 1941, my grandmother used a gift she got from her mother to document her love for the game of baseball. More than 70 years later, springtime means the same thing to me that it did to her: the return of baseball.

— Damon Hatheway '13.5 is a sports editor from London, England.

Panthers defeat Conn. College by six

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in the third quarter, we just kept playing our game and eventually we made our run."

The run began four minutes after the Camels' quick goals, when Alex Englert '12 won a ground ball in the defensive half, carried it into the offensive zone and after several passes converted a lefty shot from an extreme angle to bring his team within two. The Panthers then lined up, won the face-off and celebrated their fourth goal of the game a mere 10 seconds later when Mike Giordano '13 scored off a fast break pass from Darric White '14.

Conn. College scored its final goal of the day off a bounce shot to put them up 6-4 before John Duvnjak '13 cashed in on an individual long stick effort, sprinting half the field and blowing a shot by Camel goaltender Rob Moccia. Then, with 38 seconds left in the third quarter Eric Pfeiffer '13 added another unassisted goal when he backed down the defense and slotted it home to tie the game at six to end the third quarter.

The game remained tied for the first eight minutes of the final quarter, before the Panthers buried the Camels with six goals in just under four minutes. Sustained offensive pressure around the 6:30 mark led to Kerr putting away his second of the game on a second chance



Scott Redmond '13 tests the Camels' goalkeeper as part of an eight-goal run in the final quarter, resulting in a stellar 12-6 comeback Panthers' win over the Camels.

effort. Andrew Metros '13 then scored 30 seconds later, followed by Tim Cahill '12 and Giordano. White and Cal Williams '15 capped the scoring for the Panthers with 2:31 remaining, giving Middlebury a 12-6 win. The second half barrage featured eight consecutive goals in just under 17 minutes of game time.

"Lacrosse can be a very back and forth game," Cronan said. "Teams go on runs

just like in basketball and we just started clicking in the second half. We began doing the necessary things to win the game: our transition game got going, we started sticking our shots and our defense stepped up and stopped them when they needed to."

Over the break, the Panthers travel to Wesleyan, Hamilton and Bowdoin, before coming home to face Tufts April 5.

BY THE NUMB3RS

3 Number of matches that men's tennis has lost in the past 45 matches played. The team is 5-0 this season with two shutouts.

5 Number of goals Emma Kramer '13 scored in the team's 18-10 win over Conn. College. The junior also had three assists in the game.

8 Number of unanswered goals that men's lacrosse scored in the second half of the game against Conn. College.

2 The number of times that a 15th-seeded team beaten a two seed in the 2012 NCAA Tournament and only the sixth time ever.

4 The number of teams from the state of Ohio that have advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

MEN'S LACROSSE vs. Conn. College	12-6 W	The Panthers came back from a three-goal deficit to beat Conn. College by six points and advance their record to 2-0.
WOMEN'S LACROSSE vs. Conn. College	18-10 W	The eighth-ranked Panthers improve to 2-0 while the Camels drop to 0-3 for the season.
MEN'S TENNIS vs. Tufts	9-0 W	The Panthers advance to 5-0 on the season with their third shutout of the season.
LEHIGH vs. Duke (Men's basketball)	75-70 W	15th-seeded Lehigh defeated second seed Duke in a shocking upset.
ARKANSAS vs. Dayton (Women's basketball)	72-55 W	Making their first tournament appearance since 2003, the Ladybacks swept passed Dayton in their first round game.

Men's lacrosse rallies to smoke Camels

By Owen Teach

After opening the season with a home thrashing of Bates on March 10 by a score of 7-1, the Middlebury men's lacrosse team came crashing back down to earth on Wednesday, March 14, with a loss at 19th-ranked Springfield, falling 14-5. The Panthers did not stay down for long, however. The team rallied before its home crowd Saturday, March 17, overcoming a three-goal deficit to remain undefeated (2-0) in the NESCAC, defeating the Camels of Connecticut College 12-6. While it may seem that the team was caught off guard in its encounter with Springfield after its success against Bates, midfielder Quinn Cronan '14 was quick to point out that the team was as focused as ever.

"There wasn't an excess of confidence as we came into the Springfield game," he said. "We came out of the Bates game feeling good but we knew we had a lot to work on. We try to enter each game with the same approach and never underestimate our opponent."

That being said, the Panthers

certainly struggled to match Springfield's offensive output, as the home team put nine straight goals in the back of the Middlebury net in the first and second quarters. The run started with 2:27 left in the first quarter as Springfield tied the game at two, and concluded at the 3:21 mark of the following period, as Mike Donoghue gave the Spirit a 10-2 lead. While the final score was lopsided, the game was even statistically, especially given that shots on goal finished 31-30 in favor of Springfield. The difference, according to Cronan, was a lack of execution on behalf of the Panthers.

"No one aspect of our game can be blamed for the Springfield loss," he said. "We simply didn't execute while Springfield did. It was a team effort in which our whole team didn't do what it needed to do to win, both offensively and defensively."

"We try to enter each game with the same approach and never underestimate our opponent."

**QUINN CRONAN '14
MIDFIELDER**

While the win over Connecticut College showcased a much more balanced performance by the Panthers, it took a dynamic third quarter to bring the Middlebury offense alive. Middlebury managed just two first-half goals as Stew Kerr '13 and Cronan found the back of the net in the first half for the Panthers, who found themselves down 3-2 at the break.

The Camels opened the second half with a bounce shot goal off a lefty dodge just 53 seconds in and another quick goal 30 seconds later to take a 5-2 lead at the start of the second half. Looking to avoid another crippling run, the Panthers maintained their composure and made a run of their own.

"I think cooler heads prevailed when the team went down 5-2 early in the third quarter," said Cronan. "There was a lot of the game left and we didn't think about what the scoreboard said

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Hunter Huebsch '15 and Tim Cahill '12 celebrate a goal during Middlebury's 10-goal second half Saturday against Conn. College.

Women's lacrosse improves to 2-0 in conference play

By Katie Siegner

With the season just two games old, the Panthers women's lacrosse team has proven ready to live up to their preseason top-10 national ranking, netting their most recent victory at Conn. College this past weekend, March 17. Eighth-ranked Middlebury cruised to an 18-10 victory over the host Camels, who remain winless in their first three games. Despite losing the ground-ball battle, the Panthers outshot their opponents 38-23 en route to the win, with offensive contributions coming from numerous field players. Emma Kramer '13 led the team in scoring, netting five goals on the day, and Margaret Souther '13 followed close behind with three of her own.

Middlebury opened the game with a 3-0 lead over the home team, and didn't look back from there. Over the course of the first half, they extended their lead to five, concluding the period with a 10-5 advantage. Kramer, who has emerged as a skilled attacker this season, netted three to lead the team, and first-year standout Katie Ritter '15 contributed a goal off a free position shot, demonstrating a successful changing of the guard as new players emerge to take the place of last year's leading scorers.

Going into the second half, Middlebury continued to control the game, scoring the first four goals to make it 14-5. Tri-captain Liz Garry '12 capped the rally with a free position shot with 20:53 remaining, converting one of the five successful penalty shots for the Panthers on the day, out of 10 opportunities.

"The offense was really successful off of our set plays," said Garry. "It pleased everyone to know that we could run them with some pretty high pressure."

Conn. College struggled to keep



Tri-captain Liz Garry '12 contributed a free position goal to the Panthers' 18 total scores on the day. Garry also led the team in ground balls, picking up four in the team's second straight win.

pace with the Panthers' consistent scoring and stifling defensive line, falling to an eight-goal deficit by the end of the game. Starting goalie and tri-captain Lily Nguyen '12 made four saves for the visitors, while Alyssa Palomba '14 came off the bench to make five saves for the Panthers in the last seven minutes of play.

"Palomba stopped some huge point blank shots at the end of the game to make sure that we kept our lead," said Garry, adding, "our defense has been playing very well, especially Neile Weeks '13, who was an all-star getting the ball out of our defensive end [on Saturday]."

The Panthers played effective defense all over the field, as Garry noted, "We were able to force them to make errors trying to transition the ball a bunch of times, with great doubles in the midfield to win the ball back."

This preseason has been the longest and warmest in recent memory for Middlebury, and the team has taken advantage of these

auspicious conditions to prepare themselves for a NESCAC title run. The Panthers have put in extensive work in their practices to ensure that they can compete in an extremely competitive division, with three NESCAC opponents currently also ranked in the top ten of the national poll.

"We are much further ahead than we have ever been, both in how we are playing and our conditioning," said Garry. "We know that this year the NESCAC is anyone's for the taking, and everyone is just pumped to play the next game. We know that if we want to keep winning games, we can, we just need to buckle down and do the little things right."

Over spring break, the Panthers face several big games against NESCAC foes, and will also travel to Colorado to face Colorado College for the first time in program history. This intense week of competition will go a long way in determining the Panthers' conference standing going into the heart of the season.

Men's tennis blanks Tufts 9-0 for 5-0 start

By Danny Zhang

The men's tennis team improved its record to an unblemished 5-0 last Friday March 16th at home, by sweeping six singles and three doubles matches against NESCAC opponent Tufts University.

Each of the singles victories came in straight-sets fashion. Most notably, Brantner Jones '14, one of two Middlebury players on last year's NESCAC All-Conference First Team, scored a double bagel win over his opponent Andrew Lutz.

"Brantner Jones is playing at a very high level," said assistant coach Adam Kent. "He's come a long way in a short amount of time."

Alec Parower '13, the other ranked player who played in the Tufts match, beat his opponent 6-3, 6-1. Teddy Fitzgibbons '14 also scored a bagel set over his opponent, eventually prevailing with a score of 6-0, 6-2.

The three doubles teams of Andrew Lebovitz '14/Jones, Parower/Derrick Angle '12 and Spencer Lunghino '13/Eric Vehovec '12 all won with identical scores over their Tufts opponents, coming out on top in supersets 8-4.

"The No. 1 singles match was competitive in the first set," said Kent. "Our No. 2 guy (Angle) caught food poisoning so everyone shifted up a notch."

"We stepped up early in

doubles play," he added. "They all won with relative ease."

When asked how the team is performing compared to the fall, Kent responded, "We're progressing nicely. [The team] is volleying better, they're more comfortable on the tennis court."

The undefeated men's team will take off for a week-long trip to California where they will play ranked Division III schools like Pomona-Pitzer (13) and Claremont (18), as well as four other colleges.

"[Spring break] is going to be a nice litmus test for where we are. We're really excited for the level of competition we're going to see."

**ADAM KENT
ASSISTANT COACH**

The Panthers are currently ranked seventh in the nation among DIII schools, and are looking to unseat rivals Amherst and Williams, currently one and three, respectively. "We'll play against some of the best Division III opponents nationally whereas we've had sort of an easy go of it right now," Kent said. "It's going to be a nice litmus test for where we are. We're really excited for the level of competition we're going to see."

In an earlier interview, head coach Bob Hansen noted that he will have a better sense of the overall dynamics and performance of each individual player after this West Coast trip.

After the break, the Panthers are slated to face off against Connecticut College in an away match on Friday, April 6.



**LAUREN GREER '13,
AMONG OTHERS,
NAMED ALL-AMERICANS
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**SPRING RECALLS
THE LEGACY OF
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